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The challenges and threats of Iran war

Perspectives on the ongoing conflict

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India earns a 2-2 draw against Scotland

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Stock market investors sell big as crude hits $100

Ashokamithran T
MUMBAI

Investors in the Indian stock market sold big on Monday, triggering a 1.4% decline in the benchmark indices as crude skyrocketed to $100 a barrel amid tension in West Asia.

India will not be raising the retail price of petrol, despite benchmark crude oil prices breaching $100 per barrel, a highly placed source in the Centre told *The Hindu*. Oil prices have surged consistently for more than a week, as Iran shut down the Strait of Hormuz.

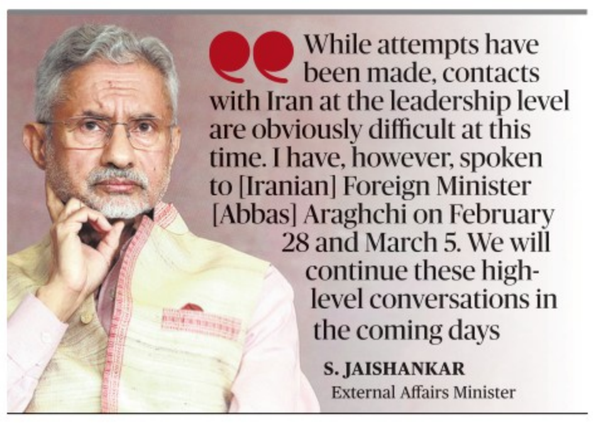
The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 1,352.74 points, or 1.71%, to settle at 77,566.16, registering its second day of decline. The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 422.40 points, or 1.73%, to end at 24,028.05.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 15

Conversations with Iran to continue: Jaishankar

Commitment to protect Indians in West Asia an 'overriding priority', External Affairs Minister tells Parliament in a *suo motu* statement; energy security and trade flows 'always paramount', he says

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI


While attempts have been made, contacts with Iran at the leadership level are obviously difficult at this time. I have, however, spoken to [Iranian] Foreign Minister [Abbas] Araghchi on February 28 and March 5. We will continue these high-level conversations in the coming days
S. JAISHANKAR
External Affairs Minister

The Indian government tried reaching out to the Iranian leadership after the U.S.-Israel attack on February 28 killed its Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, but could not establish contact because of the ongoing conflict, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar told Parliament while making a *suo motu* statement on Monday. He said Iran had sought "permission... for three ships in the region to dock at our ports" before the U.S. torpedoed *IRIS Dena* off Sri Lanka.

Speaking in Parliament as it resumed the Budget Session, Mr. Jaishankar reiterated the Centre's commitment to protect Indians in the region, describing their safety as an "overriding priority". He said that "energy security and trade flows will always be paramount" and informed the MPs about the diplomatic-level conversation India has had with the U.S. during the period.

"While attempts have been made, contacts with Iran at the leadership level are obviously difficult at this time. I have, however, spoken to Foreign Minister [Abbas] Araghchi on February 28 and March 5. We will continue these high-level conversations in the coming days," he said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Khamenei's son Mojtaba new Supreme Leader of Iran

Stanly Johny

Iran's Assembly of Experts announced on Sunday night that it had chosen Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, son of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the former Supreme Leader who was killed by a joint American-Israeli strike on February 28, as the country's new leader. The 57-year-old cleric will be the third Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 16

NEARBY

State govt. rules out closure of KSIC factory

BENGALURU
The State government on Monday informed the Legislative Assembly that the KSIC Filature Factory at T. Narsipur in Mysuru district and popularly known as the Mysore Silk Factory, will not be closed.
» PAGE 8

DKS to host dinner meeting for legislators

BENGALURU
Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar will host a dinner for Congress MLAs and MLCs on Tuesday to mark the completion of six years as president of the KPCC.
» PAGE 8

To guard the franchise

Poll duty: Sashastra Seema Bal jawans from Uttar Pradesh being welcomed in Chennai on Monday. The jawans arrived by a special train ahead of the Tamil Nadu Assembly election, the dates of which are to be declared soon. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

West Asia dominates LS; resolution on Speaker's removal not taken up

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As the Budget Session resumed, the Lok Sabha on Monday failed to take up a resolution seeking the removal of Speaker Om Birla amid repeated adjournments with the Opposition insisting on a full-fledged discussion on the West Asia crisis and its impact on nearly 10 million Indians living in the region.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju termed the Opposition parties "irresponsible", while the Chair accused them of holding the House proceedings "hostage" to their demands. The House was adjourned for the day shortly after it reassembled at 3 p.m. following two earlier adjournments.

Opposition MPs stage a demonstration over the West Asia crisis on Parliament premises during the Budget Session on Monday. ANI

"I have never seen such an irresponsible Opposition party in my life! This Opposition does not understand the basic ethics of this House, the rules of this House, and the values of the Constitution," Mr. Rijiju said in the House.

However, the Opposition has shown no signs of relenting, demanding a comprehensive discussion on West Asia and energy security in view of the ongoing war in the region.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Monday evening signalled a more aggressive stance. "The fight [in West Asia] is an attempt to create a paradigm shift. Our economy is going to face major losses, and you have seen what has happened in the stock markets. [Prime Minister Narendra] Modi *ji* has signed the U.S. [trade] deal, and the country is going to face a massive hit," Mr. Gandhi told presspersons within the Parliament complex.

Sources indicated that the government is unlikely to accept the Opposition's demand as External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had already made a *suo motu* statement on the issue in both Houses.

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RS WALKOUT » PAGE 12

Trip to nowhere: IndiGo's U.K. flight returns to Delhi after 14 hours in the sky, as Eritrea flags permit issue

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

An IndiGo flight from Delhi to Manchester was forced to turn back from Eritrea after being airborne for nearly eight hours. Though the aircraft had skirted the conflict-affected Persian Gulf, the flight effectively took 14 hours and ended where it began.

The prolonged diversion was triggered by confusion at the Air Traffic Control in Eritrea over a permit filed by IndiGo, sources said.

The Boeing 787-9 aircraft, which IndiGo has leased from the Norwegian carrier Norse Atlantic Airways, took off from Delhi at half past midnight on Monday. The Flight tracking website Flightradar24 shows that it avoided the entire Gulf region, entered Africa through Ethiopia and was flying over Eritrea when it did a u-turn and started returning to Delhi. It landed in Delhi at 2.30 p.m.

The operational arrangement of the aircraft, leased from Norwegian carrier Norse Atlantic Airways, triggered the confusion. FILE PHOTO

IndiGo had partially resumed flights to Europe on Sunday after more than a week, and the service to Manchester was its first since February 26. It is using a longer route over Africa to avoid the affected airspace.

Monday's diversion was triggered by confusion over the operating arrangement of the leased aircraft. While overflight permits are typically obtained by the marketing carrier, which in this case is IndiGo, it must state the carrier under whose name the aircraft is registered, which is Norse Atlantic Airways. Though the permit reflected this arrangement, air traffic authorities in Eritrea were reportedly confused by the involvement of two airlines linked to the same aircraft, triggering the diversion.

"We are working with the relevant authorities to explore the possibilities of resuming the journey," IndiGo said in a press statement.

IndiGo's London-Mumbai flight on Sunday was diverted to Cairo for the same reason. The flight is now scheduled to depart on Tuesday, and the airline said it was arranging hotel accommodation for affected passengers. Two other IndiGo flights to Amsterdam and London that used the same route were operated without any incident.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Hotels may shut if LPG supply is not resumed: Hotels association

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Raising concerns over the supply of commercial LPG cylinders amid the West Asia conflict, the Bangalore Hotels Association on Monday warned that restaurants across Bengaluru may have to shut down if the supply is not resumed.

Association president P.C. Rao said the supply of commercial gas cylinders to hotels had been stopped from Monday, which could severely affect the hotel industry. The sector, he said, is considered an essential service and is relied upon by a large number of people, including students, senior citizens, and others who depend on hotels for their daily meals.

The disruption in gas supply has come as a setback for the hotel industry. FILE PHOTO

Sudden stoppage

"The oil companies had earlier indicated that there would be no disruption in gas supply for around 70 days. However, the sudden stoppage of supply has come as a setback for the industry.

While the restaurants may not close on Tuesday, if the supply does not resume, a situation is expected where eateries will be forced to shut," Mr. Rao told *The Hindu*.

The association has requested the Union government and the Ministers concerned to intervene immediately and ensure that the supply of commercial LPG cylinders is restored at the earliest.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 3

India glorious

A triumph of spirit, of team spirit, of belief in themselves and each other, the T20 World Cup title won by Suryakumar & Co. will be celebrated long and hard; India relished being installed the favourites and basked in the fact that everyone expected them to go all the way

VIJAY SONEJI

R. Kaushik
AHMEDABAD

In 2024, the emotions were raw, visceral, visible. In 2026, there was calmness and poise. The contrast couldn't have been starker.

There was a compelling reason for the Class of 2024, under Rohit Sharma, to celebrate their dramatic seven-run triumph over South Africa in the final of the T20 World Cup in uninhibited fashion. Just in isolation, it was an extraordinary jailbreak. India appeared out for the count after a 24-run 15th over from Axar Patel that left the South Africans with a straightforward target of 30 off 30 deliveries. With six wickets standing, the batting side was the odds-on favourite; the only way a reversal in fortunes was possible was through an extraordinary, otherworldly bowling display that also needed, certainly needed, a collective batting brain-fade.

India kept up their end of the bargain, through the magnificent Jasprit Bumrah and his admirable pace-bowling comrades-in-arms, Arshdeep Singh and Hardik Pandya. South Africa kept up theirs too, allowing the fear of success - yes, there really is some such thing - to leave them with addled brains and leaden feet. When victory was the easier, more inviting option, South Africa chose to embrace defeat. They were driven towards that result by India, energised by the dismissal of the marauding Heinrich Klaasen, but the victors will be the first to concede that they couldn't have done it on their own, not without the generosity of the Proteas.

Redemption

Rohit, prone on the Kensington Oval turf in the beautiful Barbadian capital of Bridgetown, pounded his right palm on the grass, an outpouring of relief and delight and vindication and redemption. His predecessor as captain, Virat Kohli, struggled to hold back the tears after playing a crucial knock that would have counted for little had it not been for the end result. Pandya, Rohit's deputy, made no attempt at affected machismo, allowing the tears to roll down his cheeks unchecked as he reflected on a difficult few months triggered by his elevation as captain of Mumbai Indians, at the expense of the popular Rohit, who had led the franchise to five IPL crowns.

And then, of course, there was the ghost of seven months previous, always perched on the shoulder, always a painful reminder of what could have been. Seven months before they sang the consolatory redemption song, Rohit's fabulous band had come unstuck on the grandest stage of all, the final of the 50-over World Cup. India entered the tournament as the team to beat, to emulate the side of 2011 under Mahendra Singh Dhoni which justified favouritism on its way to becoming the first team to win the World Cup on home turf. They played with flair and imagination and creativity and chutzpah, sweeping all-comers in extraordinarily breathtaking fashion. They didn't just win matches, they annihilated opponents with their daring and courage, with their aggression and depth.

The Narendra Modi Stadium, everyone was convinced, would be the platform for their coronation. But sport seldom encourages fairytales, and so it was that, inspired by Travis Head, Pat Cummins' men completely silenced a massive pro-India home crowd, conjuring a six-wicket victory that plunged a nation into despondency and despair.

Rahul Dravid was set to walk away into the coaching sunset at the end of the World Cup, until Rohit picked up his phone and talked to the older man, convincing him to stay on till the T20 World Cup. Dravid readily agreed; it was almost as if he was waiting for the call, because he too felt there was unfinished business to take care of. India did that in grand style in the Americas, first emerging unscathed from the horrible surfaces at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York's Eisenhower Park, then bossing the Super Eights and the knockouts in the Caribbean with their carefree, yet hardly careless, brand of cricket.

You could therefore understand the visible show of emotion that Saturday afternoon in Bridgetown. You could almost relate to it, having watched first-hand the home campaign first unfold and then unravel spectacularly. In a way, you rode the same roller-coaster as the players and the support staff even though the stakes were a lot higher for them than for anyone else. After all, there were several members of the vanquished side of 2023 in the 2024 T20 squad, haunted by the ugly baggage of the immediate past. Hence the letting go of pent-up feelings, a sense of justice having finally been served. Suryakumar Yadav's band of brothers didn't carry that baggage. They were practically unaccustomed to defeat. From the eleven that took the field for Sunday night's final against New Zealand, only the captain himself and his greatest weapon, Bumrah, had played in the fateful title clash of 2023. The rest had yet to endure the harshest of heartbreaks. To them, winning had been commonplace, almost second nature. So why should a 96-run romp in the final of the biggest T20 tournament in the world feel any different?

And so, when Abhishek Sharma had Jacob Duffy caught at long-on by Tilak Varma at 10.43 p.m., as the stadium erupted and crackers went off in different parts of a grateful, jubilant nation, there was a sense of eerie calmness. It wasn't so much mission accomplished as normal service restored. Agreed, it was a World Cup final and therefore victory was more special than usual, but there was no outlandish show of emotion, no over-the-top celebration, no routine out of the ordinary captured for posterity by omniscient still and motion cameras.

India were expected to win. They expected to win themselves. And win they did. So what's the big deal, eh? Why the fuss and the fanfare? Why the surprise, why the overwhelming delight in the stands and on the streets?

That doesn't mean Suryakumar's side had to just turn up to win. Playing at home in a tournament as high-profile as a World Cup is a double-edged sword. India playing at home in a tournament as high-profile as a World Cup is a multi-edged sword. A sea of people, well meaning and well intentioned, constantly keep reminding the players of the imperativeness of keeping the cup at home. The ceaseless clamour and weight of expectations can be oppressive for a bunch of young men trying to eke out a livelihood but also aware that in that process, they have been installed as heroes and role models, that they carry the hopes of a billion even if that is not what they signed up for. It can be daunting, this tremendous burden, but as Suryakumar has insisted more than once, it is a burden only when you allow it to be. India relished being installed the favourites. They basked in the fact that everyone expected them to go all the way. They did so not out of arrogance or complacency, but in the quiet confidence that they were a step and a half ahead of the best of the rest if they played at full potential. They did so because they hadn't lost a bilateral series between the two World Cups. They did so because they had carved a scything run through the Asia Cup draw in the UAE in September, when they overcame Pakistan thrice, on three consecutive Sundays. They did so because they knew that the sum of their parts was greater than the majestic whole, that they had all bases covered, that they could buck history and patterns and trends and go where no team had gone before.

India were pushed at various stages, starting from their opening Group A fixture when they were reduced to 77 for six. By unfashionable, unfancied, unintimidating United States. Imagine that. Millions wondering if 300 was on the cards and then waking up to the reality that even 100 appeared doubtful. It needed an innings of character and commonsense, of controlled aggression and vivid imagination, from the captain to pull the fat out of the fire, but as they swept Namibia, Pakistan and the Netherlands aside without moving beyond third gear, hope grew.

it was a World Cup final and therefore victory was more special than usual, but there was no outlandish show of emotion

Until it was shattered by South Africa, muscular and motivated, determined to slay the demons of 2024. Suddenly, after a draining 76-run drubbing, cracks started to make themselves felt. Two left-handed openers against off-spin with the new ball was beginning to look like a bad match-up, so mid-tournament, India changed tack. They made structural changes to the batting order, bringing Sanju Samson in to partner the horribly off-colour Abhishek Sharma, using Ishan Kishan at No. 3 and pushing Tilak Varma into a finishing role that he wasn't too accustomed to. These weren't steps born out of desperation - necessity, sure, but not desperation - so much as tactical in nature. How wonderfully they came off.

Samson, who had played himself out of contention with a string of low scores, showcased a long-awaited coming of age with efforts of 97 not out (final Super Eight tie) and identical scores of 89 in the two knockouts. Kishan was unfettered and uninhibited, Tilak loved the challenge of a new position that needed him to bat with freedom from the off. The Indian batting muscle, which had atrophied during the 111-run capitulation against South Africa, resurfaced at the crunch, covering itself in glory after topping 250 thrice in a row while batting first at the business end of the tournament. 253 in the semifinal and 255 in the final came on the back of a tournament-high 256 in the first of four must-win games, against Zimbabwe in Chennai.

Even in 20-over cricket, batters win matches but it's the bowlers who fashion trophy triumphs. India had one of the greatest of all time, Bumrah, to fall back on, a luxury Suryakumar used with gratitude, but also smarts and intelligence. They also had Varun Chakaravarthy, the No. 1 bowler when the tournament started and who was unplayable in the Group A stage, only to go off the boil subsequently. Even at less than half tilt, Chakaravarthy was good enough to finish with a competition-high 14 scalps, the same as Bumrah, who saved his best for last with four for 15 in the final. Arshdeep, Pandya and Axar all chipped in without attracting the oohs and the aahs that were reserved for Bumrah, while Shivam Dube did the difficult tasks with aplomb, never more so than in the semifinal against England when he closed out the game after being left with 30 to defend in the final over.

A triumph of spirit, of team spirit, of belief in themselves and each other, this title will be celebrated long and hard. Not because it was unexpected, but it was all too expected. And nothing is more satisfying than living up to expectations, especially if they are internal.

THE GIST

- Seven months before they sang the consolatory redemption song in Bridgetown in 2024, Rohit's fabulous band had come unstuck on the grandest stage of all, the final of the 50-over World Cup
- India playing at home in a tournament as high-profile as a World Cup is a multi-edged sword. A sea of people, well meaning and well intentioned, constantly keep reminding the players of the imperativeness of keeping the cup at home
- Suryakumar's men were pushed at various stages, starting from their opening Group A fixture when they were reduced to 77 for six. By unfashionable, unfancied, unintimidating United States

Each city corporation likely to have a budget size of over ₹4,000 crore

The Bengaluru West Corporation is expected to receive the largest slice of the funds and the East Corporation the least

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

This is the first time the civic administration is moving to a five-corporation structure, with each of the city's newly formed corporations having its own Budget. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) budget is expected to cross a total outlay of ₹21,000 crore, with each corporation likely to cross a budget size of around ₹4,200 crore.

In 2025-26, the total budget for erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) was pegged at ₹19,927.08 crore.

The Bengaluru West Corporation is expected to receive the largest slice of the funds, while East Corporation getting the least. This is the first time civic administration is moving to a five-corporation structure, with each of the city's newly formed corporations having its own budget.

During the early stages, the estimates were pegged at around ₹1,300-₹1,500 crore. However, senior officials said the corporations had initially expected their budgets to be capped at around ₹3,000 crore, as nearly ₹1,500 crore had already been allocated between September, when the GBA was formed, and March, to manage finances. The latest projections, therefore, the official added, mark a significant upward revision.

The budget estimates prepared across a few corporations also indicate a revenue surplus of around ₹850-₹900 crore each, with projected revenue receipts of roughly ₹2,400-₹2,500 crore against expenditure of about ₹1,500-₹1,600 crore for 2026-27. Officials said, "This suggests the new civic bodies are expected to comfortably meet their routine operational expenses from their own revenues. However, substantial spending on infrastructure and development works is likely to absorb much of this surplus, leaving only a marginal overall balance."

The officials said that a major boost to the budgets has been from the State government allocations as well as municipal bonds. "Each corporation is expected to raise around ₹100 crore through municipal bonds, which allow civic bodies to borrow money from investors for infrastructure projects. If all five corporations raise funds through this route, it can collectively mobilise about ₹500 crore for work such as roads, drainage and other civic infrastructure," the official explained.

The State government, this budget too, granted ₹7,000 crore yearly funds, similar to last year.

The officials added that a meeting would soon be held with the Additional Chief Secretary and all MLAs to finalise how the budgets would be presented as there would be separate budget for each corporations. One of the options being considered was to present the budgets of all five corporations on the same day before the GBA Chief Commissioner.

Civic polls: GBA releases revised draft voters' list, objections open till March 16

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

No. of voters in the revised draft electoral roll across corporations

Corporations	Wards	Polling stations	Male voters	Female voters	Other voters	Total
Central	63	1,303	7,26,445	6,98,928	303	14,25,676
North	72	1,706	9,94,319	9,59,572	381	19,54,272
South	72	1,614	9,03,348	8,41,040	223	17,44,611
East	50	919	5,49,170	4,91,968	258	10,41,396
West	112	2,482	13,96,470	13,29,635	468	27,26,573
TOTAL	369	8,024	45,69,752	43,21,143	1,633	88,92,528

After several complaints were received from the public and political parties about names of voters not appearing in their respective wards, the revised draft voters' list for 369 wards across five corporations in the Greater Bangalore Authority (GBA) was published on Monday.

According to the revised draft list, there are 8,024 polling stations, and a total of 88,92,528 voters. Previously, there were 88,91,411 voters, as per the GBA.

The voting list comprises 45,69,752 men, 43,21,143 women and 1,633 voters in 'other' category. Among the wards, ward no. 51 Subramanya Nagar in the South City Corporation has the highest number of voters at 54,026, while ward no. 16 Kottur in the East City Corporation has the lowest number at 10,940 voters.

The citizens can raise claims or objections by March 16. Corrections identified during this period will be incorporated between March 17 and March 18, followed by quality checks from March 20 to March 22. The final voter list will then be generated between March 23 and March 27 and printed between March 28 and April 4, with the final electoral roll scheduled to be published on April 6, M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner, GBA, said during a press conference.

Chief Commissioner of Greater Bengaluru Authority M. Maheshwar Rao, Special Commissioner GBA R. Ramachandran and North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar during a press meet in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The ward-wise revised list will be available on the GBA website, where voters can search for their names using their EPIC number or name.

The list will also be available at voter registration offices and ward offices. The earlier draft electoral roll, prepared as per directions issued by the State Election Commission, was published on January 19.

However, several residents and political parties complained that their names were either missing or listed in other wards.

Based on directions issued by the commission on February 12, correction work in the 'From-to Matrix' was carried out between February 16 and February 20 to rectify these discrepancies, Mr. Rao said.

Mr. Rao also requested the registered political parties to appoint one Booth Level Agent for each polling station in every ward to help polling officials in enrollment of eligible voters.

When asked about the Census, the GBA chief said preparations were likely to begin in April. On Special Intensive Revision, he said no directions have been received so far and that the authorities would act in accordance with any instructions issued.

For development

The Ulsoor Lake has dried up due to the ongoing development work being carried out by civic authorities in Bengaluru on Monday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

AIOBCSA urges govt. to include OBCs in Rohith Vemula Act

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A draft of the Bill proposes to safeguard the right to education and dignity of SC, ST, OBC, and minorities

All India OBC Students' Association (AIOBCSA) has urged the State government to include Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the proposed Karnataka Rohith Vemula (Protection of SC/STs from Caste Discrimination in Higher Educational Institutions) Bill-2025.

"Discrimination and exclusion in educational institutions affect many marginalised students, including those from OBC backgrounds," it stated.

In his letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, G. Kiran Kumar, national president for AIBOCSA, said, "The Bill, inspired by the tragic institutional discrimination faced by Rohith Vemula, is a significant and progressive step toward addressing discrimination, exclusion, and harassment in educational institutions. Its objective to create safe, inclusive, and just academic spaces is deeply commendable." However, it is important to recognise that students from the OBC communities also experience various forms of discrimination, social exclusion, and institutional barriers in universities and higher educational institutions, he added.

"Karnataka has a well-established classification of backward classes such as Category I, Category II-A, Category II-B, Category III-A, and Category III-B, covering numerous socially and educationally backward communities. Students from these sections form a significant portion of the student population in universities and colleges across the State. Ensuring their protection within the framework of the Bill would strengthen its commitment to social justice and equality," he said. Further, Mr. Kumar urged the Chief Minister to provide institutional safeguards against discrimination and exclusion faced by the OBC students.

"Strengthen Karnataka's long-standing legacy of social justice and inclusive governance. Ensure that the legislation addresses the concerns of all socially and educationally marginalised communities in higher education and uphold the constitutional vision of equality and dignity for every student," he requested.

After the suicide of Rohith Vemula, a Dalit PhD scholar at Hyderabad Central University, on January 17, 2016, allegedly due to caste-based discrimination, there was a clamour for the implementation of the Rohith Vemula Act.

A draft of the Bill prepared by the Law, Justice and Human Rights Department, proposed to safeguard the right to education and dignity of SC, ST, OBC, and minorities, last year.

However, this has been opposed by Dalit groups vehemently.

BNP: Citizen-led solutions to tackle garbage black spots

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A report released by the Bengaluru Navanirmana Party (BNP) has challenged the belief that garbage black spots in Bengaluru are mainly caused by a lack of waste collection, stating that the problem was linked to gaps in coordination and limited citizen participation.

The report points out that while waste collection takes place in many areas, the system does not always match the day-to-day realities of residents.

The report found that several small but practical issues prevent people from using the door-to-door garbage collection system properly. In many cases, collection happens when residents are away at work. Some residents also avoid leaving garbage bags outside their homes because stray dogs may tear them open.

Silent surge in districts: Door-to-door screening reveals uneven burden of NCDs

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

As per the screening results in districts, hypertension and Type II diabetes accounted for the bulk of diagnoses. GETTY IMAGES

Karnataka's flagship door-to-door health screening outreach Gruha Arogya has thrown up a stark district-wise health map, revealing not just the scale of silent illnesses but also deep regional variations in diagnosis rates.

The programme, implemented through ASHA workers who covered 41,92,801 households between August 2025 and January 2026 across districts, focused on early detection of 14 non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including hypertension, diabetes, cancer, and other chronic conditions among adults, besides anaemia among younger persons.

The Health Department is set to expand Gruha Arogya to Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) areas.

As per the screening results in districts, hypertension and Type II diabetes accounted for the bulk of diagnoses. From August 2025 till January 2026, the Health Department screened 76,07,739 people aged above 30 for hypertension, and 72,75,369 for diabetes. Of them, 19,94,530 were diagnosed with hypertension, and 14,78,842 with diabetes – underscoring the magnitude of the non-communicable disease (NCD) burden. District-wise data revealed significant regional variations. Belagavi recorded the highest absolute number of hypertension cases, with 3,24,403 diagnoses from 14,15,047 screenings. Mysuru reported 1,87,089 cases from 4,35,504 screened. Chitradurga showed a high detection proportion with 1,34,725 diagnosed among 2,23,679 screened. Udupi and Tumakuru also reported substantial numbers.

In contrast, Yadgir and Ramanagara recorded lower absolute figures, though officials cautioned that this does not necessarily indicate lower prevalence.

Similar pattern

A similar pattern emerged for diabetes. Belagavi again topped the list with 2,77,231 cases detected among 13,81,829 screened. Mysuru reported 1,40,994 cases, while Tumakuru, Chitradurga and Chamarajanagar reflected a considerable metabolic disease burden. In Bengaluru Urban, 19,336 of the 54,775 persons screened were diagnosed, indicating a notable urban load despite lower screening coverage.

Cancer screening

Cancer screening formed a major component of the outreach.

Of 52,06,304 persons screened for oral cancer, 3,964 were diagnosed, and 21,157 referred as suspected cases.

Udupi and Uttara Kannada recorded the highest confirmed numbers, followed by Belagavi. Breast cancer screening covered 20,70,858 women and identified 3,272 cases, with Udupi, Mandya and Mysuru reporting higher detection.

Cervical cancer screening of 16,07,446 women resulted in 1,658 confirmed cases, with Udupi and Tumakuru among districts reporting more cases. Screening for chronic kidney disease covered 31,53,077 persons and yielded 11,108 diagnoses, with Belagavi, Mysuru and Vijayanagara reporting higher numbers.

Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) screening identified 4,481 cases from 31,43,460 screened.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) screening led to 24,379 diagnoses from 31,34,623 persons, with Belagavi accounting for 4,200 cases, and Mysuru, Udupi and Mandya reflecting substantial respiratory burden.

Mental health screening reached 30,04,223 individuals, resulting in 20,353 confirmed cases. Neurological disorder screening covered 28,12,968 persons, and identified 8,658 cases, with Mysuru and Belagavi reporting higher figures. Raghunandan, State Deputy Director (Non-Communicable Diseases), said the findings highlight the silent spread of lifestyle diseases beyond urban centres. "The data shows that non-communicable diseases are widespread across districts, including rural and semi-urban areas. Early identification through household screening allows us to initiate treatment sooner and prevent complications," he said.

He said that the next phase would focus on ensuring continuity of care through primary health centres and Ayushman Arogya Kendras.

A senior official said the district-level variations underline the need for targeted public health strategies rather than a uniform approach.

We now know why some people had severe blood clots after COVID shots

For years, the mechanism behind VITT cast a shadow over adenoviral vector vaccines – a technology that has otherwise been central to global immunisation efforts; a study has provided explanation by identifying a particular protein to be the trigger and defining antibody features involved

Arun Panchapakesan

A health worker administers a dose of a COVID-19 to a woman in Lucknow, December 2021. SANDEEP SAXENA

In early 2021, as COVID-19 vaccines were being rolled out across the world, reports began to surface of a rare but alarming complication. Some people who received the shots were developing unusual blood clots. The cases were first identified in Europe and later in the U.S.

Notably, they were reported mainly among recipients of the AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. The common link between those two vaccines was their design. Unlike the Pfizer and Moderna shots, which used mRNA, both the AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccines used a modified virus to deliver DNA into the body's cells. In roughly 3 to 10 cases per million vaccinated individuals, depending on age and sex, recipients developed unusual blood clots accompanied by low platelet counts, a condition that came to be known as vaccine-induced immune thrombocytopenia and thrombosis (VITT).

Very soon, research groups started reporting that the affected patients were producing antibodies against a human protein called platelet factor 4 (PF4). PF4 plays an important role in regulating the formation of blood clots. In these patients, antibodies were binding to PF4 and forming a complex that activated platelets, driving both clot formation and the low platelet counts.

However, the puzzling thing was PF4 is a human protein. The immune system is not supposed to make antibodies against self-proteins. In extremely rare cases, autoimmune reactions do occur due to genetic susceptibilities, but here, the vaccines were designed to generate immunity against the coronavirus spike protein, not against PF4. How could this be happening?

Delivering the recipe

At its core, a vaccine is essentially a decoy. It presents the immune system with something that looks like the enemy, so the system learns to recognise and defeat the real thing later. The goal of the COVID-19 vaccines was to teach the immune system to recognise the coronavirus' spike protein. The vaccines do not contain the coronavirus itself. Instead, they deliver instructions that prompt our bodies' own cells to briefly produce a harmless piece of the virus. The immune system sees this protein, mounts a response, and forms memory cells that stand ready for future encounters.

Cells store DNA inside a structure called the nucleus. When a protein needs to be made, the cell first creates a temporary working copy called messenger RNA (mRNA). The mRNA then exits into the main body of the cell, where special molecular machines called ribosomes make the protein from the mRNA. The mRNA is short-lived and quickly degraded.

Vaccines using mRNA such as Pfizer and Moderna took advantage of this system by delivering mRNA directly, packaged inside lipid (fat) particles. The mRNA never needed to enter the nucleus: it was immediately read in the cell body to produce the spike protein.

Delivering DNA is more complicated. DNA must enter the nucleus for the cell to make mRNA, which means crossing an additional protective barrier. Injecting naked DNA is inefficient.

Unique antibodies

Viruses, on the other hand, are experts at delivering DNA into cells. AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson used a harmless, genetically modified adenovirus as a courier to efficiently carry the coronavirus spike-encoding DNA into the nucleus, from where the cell's own machinery took over. Once the cell made the spike protein, it was displayed to the immune system, which began to respond. Among the first responders were B cells, the antibody-producing cells of the body. Each B cell carries on its surface a unique receptor, generated by a remarkable process of genetic reshuffling. During B-cell development, segments of DNA are randomly cut and pasted together in different combinations, creating millions of possible antibody designs. This process ensures enormous diversity even before an infection occurs.

When a B cell receptor recognises the spike protein, it is activated and begins to multiply. As it divides, its antibody genes undergo further fine-tuning through small mutations. Variants that bind the target more tightly are preferentially selected in a kind of microscopic evolutionary competition. Over days to weeks, this iterative cycle produces antibodies of increasing strength and specificity.

In theory, because this system relies on random recombination and mutation, every person's antibodies are somewhat unique, even when facing the same virus.

Same single mutation

This is generally true for most antibodies. However, a new exception to this rule has been at the core of identifying the cause behind the anti-PF4 antibodies from patients with VITT. In a paper in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, investigators reported that antibodies isolated from patients from different countries – with no known connection to one another – were remarkably similar at the molecular level. These antibodies weren't just targeting the same protein: they were built using the same antibody gene segments and carried highly similar structural features. Even more intriguing: nearly all the affected patients shared one of two versions of an antibody gene, designated *IGLV3-21**02 or *03. Additionally, in the process of fine-tuning, all the patients had generated the same single mutation, which led to a small change in the protein. This change, when coupled with the variations in two versions of the antibody genes, altered the electrical charge on that part of the antibody that binds to its target.

In roughly 3 to 10 cases per million vaccinated individuals, recipients developed unusual blood clots accompanied by low platelet counts, a condition that came to be known as vaccine-induced immune thrombocytopenia and thrombosis (VITT), and it was found that affected patients were producing antibodies against a human protein called platelet factor 4 that is key in regulating the formation of blood clots

When researchers recreated these antibodies in the lab, they showed that this small alteration made a big difference. With the change, the antibodies stuck strongly to PF4 and activated platelets. When the change was reversed, the antibodies bound weakly and were far less likely to trigger clotting.

The researchers then turned to the next question: why this reaction occurred only with vaccines that used an adenovirus as the delivery vehicle. The answer to that lay inside the virus itself.

Cast a shadow

A protein within the adenovirus, called protein VII, contains a short stretch that closely resembles part of PF4. To the immune system, the entire adenovirus particle used for delivery was foreign and antibodies were naturally generated against its components. This is a known effect of these vaccines, and in almost all cases it is harmless. In mounting this response, the immune system first produced antibodies against protein VII. But as these antibodies were being refined, that critical change, in those individuals carrying one of the two specific antibody gene variants, altered their binding properties. As a result, the antibodies were mistaking PF4 for the viral protein and were reacting against the body's own proteins instead.

For years, the mechanism behind VITT cast a shadow over adenoviral vector vaccines – a technology that has otherwise been central to global immunisation efforts. The new study has provided a clear molecular explanation by identifying protein VII to be the trigger and defining the precise antibody features involved. In so doing, the study's authors – from Australia, Canada, Germany, and the Netherlands – have paved the way for future vaccines to be engineered even more carefully, further strengthening the safety of adenoviral vectors.

(Arun Panchapakesan is an assistant professor at the Y.R. Gaitonde Centre for AIDS Research and Education, Chennai. arun.panchapakesan@gmail.com)

Coronae glow on the tips of spruce needles as weak electric discharges subtly singe the tips of leaves and needles. WILLIAM BRUNE/AGU

UV camera snaps treetops glowing amid thunderstorm

Vasudevan Mukunth

Thunderstorms create large amounts of electricity that we see as lightning. Under these storms, scientists believed that electricity would flow through trees, giving them a dull ultraviolet glow, and affect the surrounding environment. These discharges are called coronae. However, no one measured these 'glows', predicted nearly a century ago, until recently.

In a new study published in *Geophysical Research Letters*, researchers from Pennsylvania State University reported using a new mobile instrument called the Corona Observing Telescope System (COTS) to provide the first direct observations of coronae in the wild, thus opening a new door to study how forests and thunderstorms interact. COTS had a special camera that was sensitive only to a narrow range of ultraviolet light. Because the earth's ozone layer blocks this specific wavelength of sunlight, the camera could detect the ultraviolet radiation from electrical discharges without being blinded by daytime light or reflected sun.

The findings provide the first direct evidence of coronae in the wild and its quantification

The team mounted COTS in a research vehicle, allowing them to track storm clouds and observe the tops of tall trees from a distance. The researchers also used an electric field mill to measure the intensity of the storm's electrification and a weather station to record conditions like rainfall and humidity. This way, the team reported that during a thunderstorm in North Carolina in the U.S., it observed coronae on a sweetgum tree and a loblolly pine. Their findings provide the first direct evidence and quantification of coronae in the wild. The team also wrote that the ultraviolet glow is not fixed to one spot but hops sporadically from leaf to leaf and branch to branch. In some instances, the glow followed a branch even as it swayed in the wind. These discharges typically lasted between a fraction of a second and a few seconds. By comparing the field observations with laboratory experiments on smaller trees, the team established a direct link between the brightness of the ultraviolet light and the amount of electrical current flowing through the tree.

The team also found that a typical corona discharge emits approximately one hundred billion photons, a level of light corresponding to an electrical current of about one microampere flowing through an individual tree branch. While 1 μA is a small amount of electricity – 10,000-times lower than the current in an LED – the researchers noted that these discharges occurred across entire forest canopies as the storm passed overhead, summing up to a sizeable current. They also expanded their observations to include four other storms ranging from Florida to Pennsylvania, suggesting these "swaths of scintillating corona glow" are a common and widespread phenomenon during peak thunderstorm activity.

The findings, the researchers wrote, inform our understanding of the atmosphere. They pointed out that the coronae produced large amounts of the hydroxyl radical (the ion OH^-), which acted like a detergent for the air by removing hydrocarbons and altering the forest's air quality. The voltage surges associated with these glows can also cause small but permanent damage to trees by burning the fine tips of leaves.

(mukunth.v@thehindu.co.in)

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

What we call animals when they come together

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

English collective nouns for animals, called the terms of _____, are some of the most creative parts of the language. Most of them originated in the 15th century, when hunting became an increasingly popular pastime activity and hunters perceived the need to describe groups of animals. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2

While a group of X is sometimes humorously called a 'congress', the scientifically and historically accurate term is a 'troop', which refers to the organised social hierarchy and defensive formations these intelligent primates use. Name X.

QUESTION 3

In the 15th century, people perceived _____ to be ominous birds of ill omen. The collective noun for them reflects also the medieval belief that they were pitiless to their young, with people alleging they abandoned the young until their dark feathers grew in. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 4

Rhinoceroses have notoriously poor eyesight but can run at high speeds. What is the collective noun for them that describes the literal noise and impact created when a group of rhinos charges together through a dense brush, indifferent to obstacles they cannot see ahead?

QUESTION 5

The collective noun for apes has been traced to the Book of Saint Albans (1486). In the 15th century, the noun was a synonym for 'mischievous' rather than intelligent, and was likely chosen to describe the clever, playful, cunning, and often troublesome behaviour of groups of apes. Name the noun.

Visual: Name the collective noun of these birds, which also describes the famous 'phenomenon' depicted here. JOHN HOLMES (CC BY-SA)

Answers to March 5 quiz:

1. 1975 Soviet mission that photographed Venus's surface – **Ans: Venera 9**
2. NASA mission that used SAR to see through Venus's clouds – **Ans: Magellan**
3. Twin Soviet missions that deployed He balloons in Venus's atmosphere – **Ans: Vega**
4. Phenomenon revealed by Venus Expression mission in 2006 – **Ans: Super-rotation**
5. Braking technique that Magellan, Venus Express used – **Ans: Aerobraking**

Visual: **Akatsuki**

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For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Realtor abducted and murdered; suspects taken into custody

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A real estate agent, who was allegedly abducted near Anekal on Sunday, was reportedly found murdered near Denkanikottai in neighbouring Tamil Nadu.

The victim has been identified as Gopal.

According to police sources, unidentified assailants intercepted Gopal's car near Anekal and abducted him. The accused allegedly took him towards Denkanikottai, where he was attacked with sharp weapons and was murdered.

His body was recovered near Denkanikottai on Monday.

Preliminary investigation revealed that a person identified as Mohan Babu had allegedly given a 25 lakh contract for Gopal's murder over business rivalry.

The police have taken a few suspects into custody. Following the incident, family members and relatives of the victim staged a protest in front of the Anekal police station demanding the immediate arrest of the accused and strict action against those involved.

The police said Gopal was engaged in real estate and money-related transactions. On Sunday evening, he was reportedly travelling in his car along with an associate near Karpur Gate when the accused rammed their vehicle, abducted him, and later murdered him.

Seven special teams have been formed to track down the assailants who are on the run.

Two climbers from State to attempt to scale Mt. Everest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two climbers from Karnataka will attempt to scale the world's highest peak, Mount Everest, as part of the diamond jubilee activities of the Karnataka Mountaineering Association.

The expedition team comprises Santhosh Devarajappa, 40, and Chinmayee Thrishulamurthy, 45, both experienced climbers who have completed several mountaineering courses with distinction and undertaken multiple treks and climbs in the Indian Himalayas as well as in Karnataka. The climbers will attempt the summit through the traditional southeast route from Nepal during the April-May climbing season. The team is scheduled to leave for Nepal on April 4.

Santosh Devarajappa and Chinmayi Trishulamurthy met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Monday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Based on experience

According to the association, the two were selected based on their experience in mountaineering and high-altitude expeditions.

Mr. Devarajappa has around 21 years of experience and has participated in several climbs and treks across the Himalayas and other regions, apart from numerous expeditions within Karnataka. Mr. Thrishulamurthy, with 15 years of experience, has also completed several mountaineering courses and has taken part in multiple treks and climbs in the Himalayas.

The expedition is self-funded, with each climber expected to spend around ₹35 lakh on the attempt. Before their departure, the climbers met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday and were handed the national flag and the Karnataka State emblem on the occasion.

Mallikarjun Mutya's anticipatory bail application rejected

The Hindu Bureau
YADGIR

An anticipatory bail petition filed by Mallikarjun Mutya of Mahal Roja Mutt in a POCSO Act case was rejected by the Principal District and Sessions Court in Yadgir on Monday.

Public Prosecutor Gurulingappa Teli told *The Hindu* that Principal District and Sessions Judge H.J. Marulasiddaradhya rejected the bail petition on various grounds. Mallikarjun Mutya heads the Mahal Roja Mutt in Shahapur taluk of Yadgir district and the case under POCSO Act was registered after a video of the Mutya behaving inappropriately with a minor went viral.

The accused appeared before the investigating officer in Shahapur recently after a notice was served on him

"While rejecting the bail petition, the court considered the argument that the accused is an influential person and that there are possibilities that he may influence the investigation and tamper with witnesses," Mr. Teli said.

When contacted, Superintendent of Police Prutwik Shankar said that he will go through the court's order after receiving it and take legal opinion for further steps.

The accused appeared before the investigating officer in Shahapur recently after notice was served on him.

From Page One

Hotels may shut if LPG supply is not resumed: Hotels association

S.P. Krishnaraj of Nisarga Grand told *The Hindu* that the situation is worrying for hoteliers, as they have been informed that filling of commercial LPG cylinders has not been taking place since March 7.

He said that in such circumstances, the concern is not just about business losses but also about the uncertainty faced by those who depend on alternative arrangements, including their own staff who rely on meals provided at these establishments.

Mr. Krishnaraj said that a meeting was held with the authorities concerned, during which they were informed that priority would first be given to domestic consumers, with commercial users to be supplied later. In such a situation, he said, hotels may be forced to shut operations within a day or two if the issue is not resolved.

Hike not justified: CM

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, meanwhile, criticised the Centre over the recent increase in LPG cylinder prices, saying the hike was not justified.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, the Chief Minister said the Union government had increased the price of commercial LPG cylinders by ₹115 and domestic cylinders by ₹60, arguing that many people believe the hike is excessive and inappropriate.

He said there was apprehension about supply issues but added that the price increase was a separate matter.

70-year-old man dies after car catches fire in Bagepalli

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 70-year-old cab driver was burnt alive after his car suddenly caught fire near Achepalli village in Bagepalli taluk of Chickballapur district on Monday.

The deceased has been identified as Uday Kumar, 70, a resident of Penumale village.

Short circuit

According to police, the fire is suspected to have been caused by a short circuit. Within minutes, the flames engulfed the car, and Kumar got trapped inside the vehicle and was burnt alive.

Local residents rushed to the spot and tried to douse the fire and rescue him, but were unable to save the victim as the blaze spread rapidly.

The car was completely damaged in the incident.

The Bagepalli Police conducted an inspection and registered a case.

All 5 accused held in Bilikere petrol station dacoity

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

All five persons involved in the shocking dacoity that took place at a petrol station on Gaddige Road in Bilikere on the outskirts of Mysuru on February 12 have been arrested.

The main accused, Lakshman from Mandya, was arrested on March 6.

While the Mysuru district police arrested three of them, two others were arrested in connection with a robbery case registered by Harohalli police in Bengaluru South district.

APPOINTMENT

KBNU
KHAJA BANDANAWAZ UNIVERSITY
EDUCATING HUMANITY
KALABURAGI, KARNATAKA.

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION
No. 01/2026 Date: 07-3-2026

The Khaja Bandanawaz University invites applications from the eligible citizens of India for the following positions under the **Faculty of Medical Sciences:**

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Walk in Interview On 23rd March, 2026 at 02:00 pm

Interested candidates may apply via the Google Form by scanning the QR code provided.
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A Space Marketing Initiative

A Quiet Revolution in Kerala

THE INSPIRING INKEL STORY

From massive healthcare campuses and high-tech logistics parks to pioneering wind farms and "solar on stilts," INKEL has pivoted from being a middling company to a "Total Solution Provider" in infrastructure.

For years, INKEL (Infrastructure Kerala Limited) was a low-profile public limited company. Established in 2008 with a high-profile mandate to harness NRI investments and build quality infrastructure in the state, yet, for nearly a decade, the engine struggled to rev up. Growth hovered at a marginal 3–4%, dividends were non-existent, and the company functioned primarily as a modest Project Management Consultancy (PMC) implementing government projects.

Fast forward to 2026, and the narrative has shifted dramatically. Today, INKEL is a debt-free, dividend-paying juggernaut with construction projects worth about ₹1,300 Cr under its belt, a strong presence in the renewable energy space, 'BBB minus' investment rating from CRISIL and a top-tier ranking by the Kerala State Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) among the State's Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs). From massive healthcare campuses and high-tech logistics parks to pioneering wind farms and "solar energy projects" INKEL has pivoted from being a middling company to "broader portfolios" to include logistics, real estate and renewable energy sector.

At the heart of this turnaround is its Managing Director Dr. K. Ellangovan, former Additional Chief Secretary who is ably assisted by the Board of Directors led by Shri P Rajeeve, who is also the Hon Minister for Industries, Coir and Law. The company prepared a business strategy to migrate from a Project Management Consultant to a Total Solution Provider over a period of three to five years. Chairman of INKEL and Industries Minister Rajeeve notes: "INKEL has made a big turnaround, marked by steady profitability and distribution of dividends to investors".

Today, as part of its effort to broad base its portfolio INKEL has ventured into renewable energy sector by implementing a 20.5 MW solar energy plant in its industrial park in Malappuram to cater to some of the Extra High Tension Consumers of KSEB by providing a levelized tariff for the next 25 years. The project will have the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to provide grid stability besides maximising its revenue. INKEL also has in the pipeline, a hybrid Wind and Solar Energy project with a combined capacity of 36 MW energy, to be implemented in the next two years. Both the solar energy plant in Malappuram and hybrid renewable energy plant in Palakkad will be first of its kind in the state. In the area of renewable energy, INKEL has already implemented close to 30 MW solar energy projects across the state for KSEB, ANERT, Autokast and various local bodies.

FORMED WITH AMBITIOUS GOALS, INKEL HAS SUCCESSFULLY OVERCOME PAST CHALLENGES TO ACHIEVE CONSISTENT PROFITS AND PAY OUT DIVIDENDS. I BELIEVE THE COMPANY HAS, OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS, FOUND THE SPARK NEEDED FOR A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH.
P. RAJEEVE
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIES AND LAW & CHAIRMAN, INKEL LTD.

INKEL WILL DEVELOP A STAND-ALONE 'A DESIGN STUDIO' AND A DETAILED PROJECT REPORT (DPR) CELL TO CATER TO A LARGE CLIENT BASE IN KERALA.
Dr. K. ELLANGOVAN
MANAGING DIRECTOR, INKEL LTD.

It is also worth noting that INKEL being one of the fourteen SPVs appointed by Government of Kerala to implement various projects, it has emerged as the 'best performing' SPV and was awarded an Excellence Award by KIIFB recently.

KIIFB tasked INKEL with construction of state-of-the-art buildings for government medical colleges, district hospitals and schools. The latest among these is the just-completed Cochin Cancer Research Centre (CCRC), which has a total built-up area of approximately 6.3 lakh square feet and the Super Speciality Block for the Government Medical College in Ernakulam with over 8.5 lakh square feet of built-up space.

But midway through all this, INKEL found that a big leap would be possible only if it looked beyond long-gestation infrastructure projects. Its search for immediate wins landed it in the renewable energy space. Perhaps the most poetic of its new ventures is a "solar on stilts" project, which is in developmental stage and INKEL has roped in a consultant from Singapore to do the detailing. Once this project gets implemented, all the water logged wetland, where agriculture is not possible and conversion is also not possible, could be put to use for solar energy project.

INKEL's has a large footprint in other sectors as well through its subsidiaries and associates. One of its associate companies MIV Logistics (P) Ltd is the largest container Freight Stations (CFS) in Ernakulam, handling close to 40% of the TEUs transiting through the Vallarpadam container terminal in Kochi. Its another flagship subsidiary – INKEL -EKK has constructed two stretches of roads for RICK Ltd under annuity model. The JV with KSIDC in the name INKID has two industrial estates with close to 150 industrial houses functioning in Malappuram and Angamaly. INKEL has also developed a 4 lakh square feet built-up space in Angamaly to house more than 100 industrial enterprises.

"Our aim is to ensure steady revenue to the company for it to expand and grow in newer areas. In this regard, the company has identified a pipeline of projects worth ₹1300 Cr in logistics, renewable energy, battery storage and waste management to be implemented in the next three to four years", Dr. Ellangovan points out. Plans are also underway for a massive logistics park in Palakkad to cater to the 2,000+ trucks that cross the Walayar border daily. Diversification has also led INKEL into the critical arena of waste management. Rather than acting as a front-end collector, INKEL is positioning itself as a technology and investment coordinator, working with local bodies to convert food waste into high-value manure. Even the automotive sector is on the radar, with a detailed plan for a vehicle-scrapping and recycling facility ready to launch once the State issues vehicle scrapping notifications.

Looking forward, the company is launching two new profit centres: a Design Studio and a Detailed Project Cell. These units will allow INKEL to provide end-to-end solutions.

Dr. Ellangovan credits INKEL's success to a coordinated action on the part of the Board of Directors and officers. Today, INKEL has a massive shareholder base of 2400 as against 800 shareholders three years back. Since 2022, the company has returned nearly ₹27 crore in dividends to the very shareholders who once doubted its viability. No doubt, INKEL's journey is a blueprint for how State undertakings can reinvent themselves for the modern economy.

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A BG-BGE

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Peak price of Brent crude amid the war in West Asia

119.5 Dollar per barrel. Brent crude oil prices surged to $119.50 per barrel as the West Asia war threatened energy production and shipping routes in the region. Prices later eased slightly but remained above $110, reflecting global supply concerns. Movement through the key route of Strait of Hormuz is disrupted. PTI

People arrested in Qatar for sharing attack footage

313 Qatari authorities arrested 313 people of various nationalities for sharing video footage of Iranian attacks and spreading what officials called misleading information and rumours online. The interior ministry said they were detained by its cybercrime unit for circulating clips that could stir public opinion during the ongoing regional conflict. AFP

Communal riots reported in Odisha over last 20 months

54 Odisha recorded 54 communal riot incidents between June 2024 and February 2026, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi told the Assembly. The cases were reported across five districts with police arresting 298 people in connection with the violence. During the same period, seven mob lynching incidents were also registered in four districts, with 61 arrests made. PTI

Number of political parties dissolved by Guinea government

40 Guinea's government has dissolved 40 political parties as the country prepares for legislative elections in May. Authorities said the parties failed to meet legal requirements such as filing financial statements. Opposition leader Cellou Dalein Diallo called for "direct resistance" against President Mamady Doumbouya's administration. REUTERS

Value of liquor seized along Gujarat borders in two years

42 In rupees crore. Liquor worth over ₹42 crore was seized at checkposts along Gujarat's borders with Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan over the past two years, the State government told the Assembly. Prohibition is in force in Gujarat. Authorities also arrested 1,018 people in connection with smuggling cases in the dry State. PTI

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Bengal SIR test: reading the SC's order

Why did the Supreme Court order the deployment of judicial officers to decide electoral roll disputes in West Bengal? What triggered the debate of whether the Election Commission should be equipped with permanent staff? With 60 lakh cases pending adjudication, what does publication of final rolls mean?

EXPLAINER

Kumar Utsav

The story so far:

On February 20, 2026, the Supreme Court invoked its powers under Article 142 of the Constitution and decided to deploy judicial officers in the State of West Bengal to adjudicate and revisit cases and documents submitted under the category of "logical discrepancies" and "unmapped cases" for inclusion or exclusion of names from the electoral roll. This course of action was adopted when the second phase of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls was nearing completion.

The Court intervened after the Election Commission of India (EC) submitted before the court that, despite repeated requests, the State had not provided Group 'A' officers of the rank of SDO/SDM to carry out the quasi-judicial functions of Electoral Registration Officers (EROs). According to the EC, instead of such officers, personnel at clerical levels and from Group 'B' and 'C' cadres were deployed, making it untenable to entrust them with the adjudication of cases involving scrutiny of documents in a number of cases. The State, however, disputed this assertion before the Court.

Against this backdrop, the Supreme Court initially sought the assistance of judicial officers from West Bengal and, by subsequent orders, facilitated the deployment of additional judicial officers from neighbouring Odisha and Jharkhand (subject to the discretion of the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court), having regard to the nearly 60 lakh cases requiring adjudication.

People appear for scrutiny of SIR documents in Balurghat, West Bengal. PTI

Why was the Court compelled to intervene?

Earlier, on February 4, 2026, when the Chief Minister of West Bengal chose to appear in person before the Supreme Court in the SIR matter, the hearing drew nationwide attention. Still, the Court made it clear that it would not permit any impediment to the continuation of the SIR process.

During the second phase of the SIR in West Bengal, the State challenged the decision of the EC to deploy Micro-Observers to assist the EROs/Assistant EROs, contending that such deployment was contrary to law. The EC justified the step on the grounds that it was compelled to do so due to the non-availability of adequate Group 'A' officers of the rank of SDO/SDM despite repeated requests to the State.

Another concern raised by the State related to the notices issued under the 'logical discrepancies' category, which it alleged were contrary to the SIR guidelines and issued on an ad-hoc basis. The EC contended that such verification was necessary and in accordance with the SIR, as in several cases electors had been incorrectly or wrongly linked to the last SIR.

Even after extensions of time for hearings, nearly 60 lakh cases are pending adjudication in West Bengal. This stands in contrast to similarly placed States such as in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, which were able to complete the SIR exercise within the prescribed and extended timelines. While the immediate dispute concerned the conduct of the SIR in West Bengal, the episode exposes a deeper institutional gap in India's electoral framework.

Has the time come to equip EC with permanent staff machinery?

At the heart of the issue is a structural feature of India's electoral system: the EC does not have a permanent staff of its own for the preparation of electoral rolls or the conduct of elections. Instead, it functions through personnel requisitioned from the Central and State governments under the constitutional scheme.

This question was debated in the Constituent Assembly during the consideration of draft Article 289 (present Article 324). While Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, in moving the clause, observed that the EC's work would be uneven and argued that creating a separate permanent machinery could lead to duplication of machinery and unnecessary expenditure, Mr. R.K. Sidhwa, representing the Central Provinces and Berar, expressed a contrary concern that bears relevance in the current episode.

Mr. Sidhwa argued that reliance on staff drawn from the provinces would render the scheme imperfect, since such personnel would ultimately remain responsible to the executive. If the executive were inclined to play mischief, it could issue informal or even secret instructions to such staff to act according to its behests, which they may well comply with as their permanent duty ultimately lies with the executive. He therefore advocated a Commission with its own machinery, contending that such a body could ensure a permanent and accurate electoral roll.

The controversy surrounding the deployment of EROs in West Bengal revives the unresolved institutional question: whether the time has come to equip the EC with a permanent machinery, at least for the preparation and continuous updation of the rolls.

What does publication of the final roll mean?

While the final roll published on February, 28, 2026, has 7.04 electors at present, nearly 60 lakh cases remain pending adjudication before judicial officers. Upon such adjudication, eligible electors would be included by way of supplementary lists. Further, as names may be added up to one day prior to the date of nomination, the present figure of 7.04 crore is likely to increase.

Holding the line: the ECI's institutional stance

The Supreme Court's decision to facilitate the deployment of judicial officers strikes a careful balance between ensuring the timely completion of the SIR, in view of the upcoming elections, and imparting the degree of seriousness that the exercise inherently warrants. Equally, the EC's stance justifies the trust reposed in it by the Constitution's framers under Article 324—to safeguard the integrity of the electoral roll.

(Kumar Utsav is an advocate based in Delhi whose area of practice includes election law. Views expressed are personal)

THE GIST

- The special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal has run into trouble with the EC's deployment of Micro-Observers to assist EROs/Assistant EROs. It has prompted the West Bengal government to move the Supreme Court against it
- The EC said the State had not provided Group 'A' officers of the rank of SDO/SDM to carry out the quasi-judicial functions of Electoral Registration Officers (EROs). According to the EC, instead of such officers, personnel at clerical levels and from Group 'B' and 'C' cadres were deployed. Consequently, making it untenable to entrust them with the adjudication of cases.

What is the Musi riverfront development project?

What does the river rejuvenation project comprise? What is the controversy surrounding the project? Why are residents in the riverbed up in arms?

Swathi Vadlamudi

The story so far:

Musi River flows through Hyderabad for 55 km and looks like an open sewage channel most of the year, except during the monsoon. Now, the Telangana government wants to turn the seasonal river into a perennial one by ensuring year-long flow, and develop leisure spaces, shopping areas, and heritage structures on the river's banks. But for people who have been living on the river bank for decades, this spells displacement.

What is at stake?

The Musi River, with an aggregate length of about 260 km, is created by the confluence of two rivulets - Musa and Esi originating in Ananthagiri hillocks of Vikarabad district in Telangana.

The destructive floods of 1908 prompted the last Asafjahi king Mir Osman Ali Khan of the Hyderabad princely state to commission two tanks - Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar - which act as flood control reservoirs for the river. Various governments - the Telugu Desam Party's in 1997-98, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi's in 2017 and the Congress's now - have attempted to develop the river as an urban water front.

What does the development entail?

The project envisages development on both sides of the river's 55-km course. However, the detailed project report is yet to be approved. The government also proposes to channel 2.5 tmcft of water from the Godavari River through Mallanna Sagar Reservoir, 72 km away from the city, to fill the twin reservoirs, for staggered release into the Musi River to keep it flowing throughout the year.

Also in the pipeline are 39 more sewage treatment plants in addition to the existing 31 STPs to treat the sewage entering the river from across the city.

What has happened since?

In October, 2024, the State government constituted a consortium of five companies for the preparation of a DPR. Almost simultaneously, the government went ahead with the eviction and relocation of residents from the slums on the riverbed, which drew severe backlash.

The government later decided to begin the project on the relatively unoccupied stretches along the Musa and Esi rivers, covering 21 km. The 'world's tallest' Gandhi statue as the centre of a sprawling cultural precinct is proposed at the confluence of the two rivers, named 'Gandhi Sarovar'.

The first phase of the Musi Riverfront Development project has received in-principle approval for funding from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), while the final approval is awaited.

Who is opposing the project?

Protests against the project took shape after the forced eviction of people from the slums on the Musi riverbed in 2024. A coalition of residents, voluntary organisations and activists was forged under the umbrella of 'Musi Jan Andolan' to take the government head-on. Their main objection is to the way the project is sought to be carried out, treating Musi residents as obstruction rather than as partners in the rejuvenation of the river. They question the urgency with which the government is moving forward without even a detailed project report being made available in the public domain.

Controversy erupted once again recently, when the government issued three land acquisition notifications in relation to the project. Residents of a gated community close to the confluence point have risen in opposition as their properties were listed for acquisition in one notification to facilitate the 'Gandhi Sarovar' project.

THE GIST

- The project envisages development on both sides of the river's 55-km course. However, the detailed project report is yet to be approved.
- The government also proposes to channel 2.5 tmcft of water from the Godavari River through Mallanna Sagar Reservoir, 72 km away from the city, to fill the twin reservoirs, for staggered release into the Musi River to keep it flowing throughout the year.
- Also in the pipeline are 39 more sewage treatment plants in addition to the existing 31 STPs to treat the sewage entering the river from across the city.

ADVERTISMENT

UTTAR PRADESH

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> **Data is the foundation of the new economy and AI will become the 'New Oil'** - **Yogi Adityanath,** Chief Minister, U.P.

The State's policy direction reflects that conviction, integrating infrastructure, governance reform, industrial investment and human capital development into a coherent growth strategy.

Strengthening Digital Infrastructure

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8	900 MW	₹ 30,000 cr.	₹ 21,000 cr.	644 MW
Data Center Parks	Target Capacity	Proposed Investment	Realised Investment	Currently Operational

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24x7 carbon-conscious digital infrastructure

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Leveraging Data, Technology and AI to Build Proactive, Future-Ready Governance in Uttar Pradesh

Governance in Uttar Pradesh is undergoing structural transformation. Moving beyond traditional "problem-solution" models, the State is building systems that anticipate challenges through data integration and real-time analytics. **Key institutional reforms include:** ▪ Establishment of a State Data Authority ▪ Integrated departmental databases ▪ Strengthened digital authentication systems ▪ Expanded citizen-centric digital service delivery. The emphasis is on proactive policy design, improved transparency and faster administrative response. By linking datasets across departments, the government aims to enable informed decision-making and measurable governance outcomes. **As Chief Minister has observed, "Critical thinking in linking and meaningfully utilising data will be the true game changer."**

Global Confidence in Uttar Pradesh

₹2.92 lakh crore worth MoUs signed

31 sectoral agreements

USD 25 billion AI-led data center investments

1 Gigawatt capacity by 2030

A landmark agreement signed at the World Economic Forum in Davos further reinforced the State's global positioning as an emerging technology and manufacturing hub.

These partnerships are expected to catalyse high-skilled employment, strengthen integrated hardware, software ecosystems and enhance export competitiveness.

MoU signed at World Economic Forum, Davos

Strategic Impact and Sustainable Growth

- The initiative is expected to attract substantial foreign direct investment and enhance the State's global competitiveness.
- It is likely to generate significant high-skilled employment across technology and allied sectors.
- It seeks to strengthen the integrated ecosystem spanning hardware, software, and advanced cooling infrastructure.
- It envisages round-the-clock operations powered by carbon-free energy, reinforcing sustainable growth.

Engagements at the World Economic Forum in Davos have reinforced investor confidence in the state's digital and infrastructure roadmap.

Building a Future-Ready Digital Workforce

AI Mission

- ₹225 crore allocation
- AI Labs in 49 ITIs
- 65 Data & AI Labs planned

Tech Yuva Samarth Yuva

- 25 lakh youth to be trained
- AI, AR, VR, XR exposure
- ₹100 crore provision

AI Pragya

- AI literacy for 10 lakh citizens
- Industry collaboration
- Skill alignment with industry needs

Technology Integration Across Key Sectors

Impact	Achievement
Agriculture	Early warning systems, satellite system
Cyber Security	District cyber stations
Electronics	65% mobile manufacturing share
Startups	20,000+ startups I 8 unicorns
Medical colleges	81

Uttar Pradesh's emphasis on building a future-ready workforce marks a significant policy shift from mere infrastructure creation to human capital development. Through the 'Tech Yuva-Samarth Yuva' initiative, 25 lakh youth are to be trained in Artificial Intelligence, AR, VR and other emerging technologies, aligning skills with industry demand. The establishment of AI labs in 49 ITIs and the expansion of data and AI labs across the state reflect a structured attempt to integrate vocational education with frontier technologies. Such measures aim to ensure that young people are not just degree holders, but skilled participants in a rapidly evolving digital economy.

Technology as a Growth Multiplier

With sustained investment in infrastructure, skilling and digital governance, Uttar Pradesh is aligning technology adoption with long-term economic expansion and institutional reform. According to state budget allocations for 2025-26, IT and electronics expenditure has been significantly enhanced to support this transition.

Driving industrial investment, job creation, startup ecosystem, transparency and digital inclusion

> **When technology is guided by compassion, development becomes truly inclusive. - Yogi Adityanath,** Chief Minister, U.P.

Digital Infrastructure • Skilled Youth • Transparent Governance

Uttar Pradesh's Roadmap to a Trillion-Dollar Economy

A BG-BGE

KEYWORD

An illustration shows a character walking on the road leading to many different paths with open doors.
GETTY IMAGES

Development means expansion of choices in Amartya Sen's 'capabilities approach'

The approach broadly emphasises the moral importance of freedom in achieving human well-being. In an era shaped by post-truth politics and the growing influence of artificial intelligence, the erosion of thinking skills raises serious questions about the quality of democratic life

L. N. Venkataraman

In everyday language, "capabilities" often refers to an individual's skills or abilities. However, in the work of economist Amartya Sen, the *capabilities approach* carries a much deeper meaning. Sen conceptualised capabilities as the substantive freedoms that enable people to lead the lives they value.

Sen, who received the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in 1998, has consistently argued that development must be understood not merely as economic growth but as the expansion of human freedoms. His early collaboration with Pakistani economist Mahbub ul Haq shaped the influential idea that development should be seen as the enlargement of human choices rather than simply an increase in national income. This perspective challenged the dominance of purely economic metrics in development thinking.

Sen's position also reflects his liberal philosophical commitments. For instance, he differed from philosopher Martha Nussbaum, who proposed a central list of capabilities that governments should guarantee. Sen was cautious about prescribing such a universal list, fearing it might become paternalistic. Instead, he preferred a more open framework that allows societies to debate and determine which freedoms matter most. Despite these differences, the capabilities approach broadly emphasises the moral importance of freedom in achieving human well-being. Yet translating these ideals into public policy, especially in a country like India, remains a major challenge. The state's inability to nurture enabling conditions such as critical thinking is deeply concerning. In an era shaped by post-truth politics and the growing influence of artificial intelligence, the erosion of thinking skills raises serious questions about the quality of democratic life.

Equally troubling are the declining standards across education and related sectors, particularly in an economy increasingly dominated by service industries. While the capabilities approach has long faced questions about how to operationalise its ideas in policy, the current political climate presents an even deeper challenge. Weakening standards of governance and shrinking political freedoms have created an environment where facts and truth themselves are losing relevance. This affects not only activists but also the very possibility of serious academic debate.

The result is a troubling disconnect between theory and practice. Neither appears capable of illuminating the path forward. The idea of *praxis*, the integration of thought and action, remains largely absent. In such a situation, philosophical ideals, such as John Rawls' "veil of ignorance", seem never to have been meaningfully applied in real political contexts.

Sen's central argument that development is freedom is therefore not merely academic. It is deeply political. His intellectual foresight lies partly in his deliberate openness when defining capabilities. By refusing to reduce development to indicators such as GDP or per capita income, he simultaneously challenged the dominance of economic reductionism and reaffirmed the centrality of human freedom. For Sen, development must be understood through the expansion of social opportunities and economic security, shaped by the voices and agency of people themselves. This is why he emphasised the intrinsic value of capabilities, not merely their instrumental benefits.

In contemporary policy discourse, however, capabilities are often reduced to skill formation aimed at employability. Education is increasingly framed solely as a pathway to jobs. Sen never denied the importance of employability, but he cautioned against reducing education to this instrumental goal alone. Education, in his view, must also nurture the broader freedoms that allow individuals to think, reason, and participate meaningfully in society.

Equality of autonomy

To understand the complexity of human life, the capabilities approach also draws from cognate frameworks such as complexity theory, recognising that social realities cannot be neatly predicted or engineered. Sen's emphasis on the "equality of autonomy" reflects his broader liberal conception of justice.

In this context, his distinction between *niti* (formal institutions and rules) and *nyaya* (realised justice) is particularly important. It reminds us that justice cannot be understood solely through institutional design; it must be evaluated in terms of the lived experiences of people. Unfortunately, academia often struggles to bridge the gap between the "book view" and the "field view." This disconnect becomes even more visible in a post-truth environment where information is easily mistaken for knowledge, and capabilities are reduced to narrow technical skills. Such reductionism reflects deeper moral and institutional fault lines. When scholars fail to translate complex ideas into meaningful public discourse, academic debates risk becoming institutionalised rhetoric where professors profess little that is genuinely new. The consequences of this failure are visible in the declining credibility of the state, the market, and civil society. Increasingly, we see a convergence of state power and market interests, giving rise to what might be described as plutocratic populism. In such a context, civil society weakens and the idea of development becomes narrowly tied to economic growth. This misreading of the capabilities approach is deeply problematic. The framework was originally intended to place people at the centre of development, emphasising their agency rather than treating them as passive beneficiaries of economic expansion.

Today, however, even complex social realities are often reduced to simplistic narratives. Identities are homogenised, rhetoric replaces research, and "alternative facts" begin to substitute for careful analysis. If the capabilities approach is to remain meaningful, we must return to its fundamental question: how can individuals become active agents of development rather than mere recipients of policy interventions? Only by restoring this emphasis on human agency can development once again be understood as the genuine expansion of people's freedoms and choices.

(L. N. Venkataraman is a faculty member at O.P. Jindal Global University.)

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Apart Sanju Samson, which Indian won two player-of-the-match awards in the tournament?

QUESTION 2
Yuvraj Samra was one of the seven century-makers in the event. Which associate nation did he represent?

QUESTION 3
Apart from Samson, which other Indian notched up more than 300 runs in the tournament?

QUESTION 4
How did the Scots Matthew Cross, Michael Leask, and Oliver Davidson make news on February 7?

QUESTION 5
Name the lone Pakistani and West Indian in the ICC's Team of the tournament which has four Indians?

QUESTION 6
What was the prize money (in US Dollars) that India took home for emerging the champion?

QUESTION 7
Which other teams, apart from New Zealand (2021 and 2026), have lost two summit clashes?

Name this American pacer who was the joint highest wicket-taker till the final where Varun and Bumrah went ahead by one wicket to tally 14 scalps. AP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. On March 9-10, Allied forces firebombed _____ in the deadliest single air raid in human history. **Ans: Tokyo**

2. The deadliest effect of a firebombing is the _____, which forms when multiple fires come together. **Ans: Firestorm**

3. In 2003, the U.S. used X, whose composition has been called a successor to napalm. While napalm bombs contained a mix of benzene, gasoline, and polystyrene, X is kerosene-based and uses less benzene. Name X, which the U.S. used to fiery effect in the early stages of the 2003 Iraq War. **Ans: Mark 77**

4. The main way in which a firebombing kills people is not by burning them. Instead, the fires consume so much oxygen from the air that people, even those inside air-raid shelters, suffocate. The fires also produce large amounts of Y, which seeps into underground bunkers and kills those inside. Name Y. **Ans: Carbon monoxide**

5. During a firebombing, before the military drops the incendiary cannisters, it drops explosives to blow off roofs and shatter windows and to rupture the water mains. While the first two expose structures' wooden interiors and other flammable surfaces, the third one is to prevent firefighters from doing what? **Ans: Using hoses**

Visual: In one of history's most controversial raids and which has been called a war crime, Allied bombers firebombed this city in February 1945, incinerating its historic centre and killing at least around 25,000 people. Name it. **Ans: Dresden**

Early Birds: Sadhan Panda| Sudhir Thapa| K.N. Viswanathan| Dodo Jayaditya| M. Suresh Kumar

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the meaning of "telegenic?" (S. Visvanathan Nair, Trivandrum)
When you say that someone is photogenic, it implies that he/she looks great in photographs. He/she may not be much to look at in real life, but when seen through the eye of the camera, he/she comes out looking wonderful. A person who is "telegenic" looks wonderful on the telly – i.e., television. Here are a few examples:

Some newsreaders are not telegenic.

Uday is very telegenic.

The first and third e's are pronounced like the "e" in set, bet, pet. The second "e" is like the "i" in sit, bit, hit. The g is like the j in jam, jump, just. The main stress is on the third syllable "gen."

How do you pronounce the word "connoisseur?" (S. R. Vandana, Srirangam, Tamil Nadu)
The first o is pronounced like the "o" in cot, pot, hot. The oi in the second syllable is like the a in amount and China. The eur sounds like the ir in bird, first, thirst. The r is not pronounced. The stress is on the third syllable.

It must be mentioned here that this is how some English dictionaries say that the word is pronounced. A native speaker of French may pronounce it differently.

A connoisseur is someone who knows a lot about the arts. He/she usually knows about the good things in life; he/she may be someone who knows a lot about food, drinks, etc. Examples:

He is a connoisseur of Indian food.

They told me that Amrit was a connoisseur of red wine.

What is the origin of the word "O.K."? (T. V. Raghavendran Rao, Tumkur, Karnataka)
People have different theories as to how the word "O.K." originated. Some people believe that it was the Indians who gave us the word – not Indians from India, but Native Americans.

Others argue that it was a railroad clerk named Obadiah Kelly who coined the word. His job was to collect packages for transport by train. After inspecting a package and collecting the money, he would put his initials "O.K." on it. The initials meant the package had been paid for and could be taken on board the train.

Many people think this story is far-fetched. Another theory says the word came from a political organisation formed by supporters of Martin Van Buren when he ran for U.S. President. They formed the "O.K. Club", using the initials of Van Buren's hometown Old Kinderhook, a town in New York.

There are several other theories about its origin. One thing everyone agrees on is that "O.K." is American in origin.

Which sentence is correct? "I asked for four batteries" or "I asked four batteries?" (T. Smiles, Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu)
"I asked for four batteries" means you wanted four batteries (to buy or borrow).

"I asked four batteries" means you asked a question to four batteries – which sounds absurd!

In stories like Alice in Wonderland, characters talk to animals, insects, and even cards. Similarly: "I asked four batteries the way to Batteryland."

Published in The Hindu on November 09, 1999.

Word of the day

Pusillanimous:
lacking in courage

Synonyms: poorly spirited

Usage: *The authorities are too pusillanimous to deal with this situation*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/pusillanimouspron

International Phonetic Alphabet:
/ˌpjuːsɪlˈænɪməs/, /ˌpjuːsəlˈænəməs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Courts not forum for personal vendetta but forums of justice: HC

High Court of Karnataka quashed a rape and cheating case against a man registered by a woman in India after having consensual physical relationship with him for over two years in Ireland

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that "if every broken relationship were to be clothed in the garb of criminality, the courts would transform into forum of personal vendetta, rather than forums of justice", the High Court of Karnataka quashed rape and cheating case against a man registered by a woman in India after having consensual physical relationship with him for over two years in Ireland.

"It is not a case of having sexual relationship on deceit from the inception, it is trite that the law does not criminalise heart break," observed Justice M. Nagaprasanna while allowing a petition filed by the man challenging the criminal case registered against him in October 2024. The case had its origins in Ireland, where the petitioner and the complainant met in 2021 while pursuing their higher studies. Their friendship turned into a physical relationship, and by December 2022, they began living together as consenting adults. The relationship continued for over two years until it soured in mid-2024.

The court noted that the complainant-woman was already married with a five-year-old child when she met the petitioner, and a petition for divorce from her husband was pending even before her relationship began with the petitioner. The complainant got divorce in August, 2023, all incidents of sexual intimacy with petitioner occurred in Ireland, not in India and both returned to India in August, 2024, and complaint was lodged after petitioner's family too did not agree for marriage, the court noted.

Not coercion

On the allegation that the petitioner had established physical relations on the promise of marriage, which he subsequently breached, the court found that the complaint did not narrate "coercion, deception at inception or force," but instead spoke of "companionship, cohabitation, shared domesticity and consensual intimacy extending over two years".

A consensual relationship between adults cannot be retroactively criminalised merely because one party withdraws from the relationship, the court said while noticing from the documents produced before it that the complainant had allegedly moved on to relationship with another man after registration the case against the petitioner.

"A promise of marriage becomes 'false' in law only when it is shown that the promise was a mere ruse, deceitful stratagem, never intended to be honoured," the court observed while pointing out that "a subsequent change of mind, emotional incompatibility, familial opposition or mere reluctance does not transmute into criminal intent at inception."

Two girls locked inside bedroom rescued

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a swift rescue operation, the Ramamurthy Nagar police rescued two young girls who accidentally got locked inside a bedroom in their home at NRI Layout in east Bengaluru on Thursday. According to the police, the incident occurred on March 6 around 11.19 p.m. at a residence in Kanaka Nagar, NRI Layout, in the Ramamurthy Nagar Police Station limits. The girls were trapped inside the bedroom after the door got locked from inside.

Assistance

Their parents attempted to open the door but failed, and then contacted the Namma 112 emergency helpline seeking assistance. Acting on the alert, the Namma 112 control room informed the personnel on duty in Hoysala-50 patrol vehicle.

After assessing the situation, the police managed to rescue the two girls safely from the locked room.

Anthropic India counsel denies ties with U.S.-based firm

BELAGAVI: Anthropic India, a fully owned subsidiary of Anthropic PBC, an U.S.-based AI company, argued before the District Court in Belagavi that the Indian company is an individual legal entity, distinct from the U.S.-based company.

Anthropic India's advocate Tejas C. Shetty submitted before the Principal District and Commercial Court that he could not receive summons meant to be sent to the U.S. company or appear on its behalf in a court of law when the matter came up for hearing on Monday.

EUROPE TOUR

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11 Days
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Dates: May 15, 29. Jun 12, 26. Jul 10, 24. Aug 14, 28. Sep 4, 18.
5 70222 59008

East Europe
11 Days
MUNICH, BMW Welt, **BERLIN**, Topography of Terror Museum, Little Big city Berlin, **DRESDEN**, **PRAGUE**, The Charles Bridge, Old Town Square, Czeski Krumlov, **VIENNA**, Schönbrunn Palace, **BRATISLAVA**, **BUDAPEST**, Hungarian Horse Show, Cruise on River Danube, **ZAGREB**, **SLOVEINA**, Ljubljana, Photostop at Lake Bled, **ZELL AM SEE.**
Dates: May 8, 22. Jun 5, 19. Jul 3, 17. Aug 7, 21. Sep 4, 18. Oct 2, 16. Nov 6, 13.
6 93641 04373

Portugal & Spain
10 Days
LISBON, Sintra & Cascais, **SEVILLE**, Flamenco Show, **TOLEDO**, Sword Factory, **MADRID**, Santiago Bernabeu, **VALENCIA**, **BARCELONA**, Montjuic Cable Car, Sagrada Family, La Rambla, **MARSEILLES**, **CANNES**, **NICE**, Promenade des Anglais.
Dates: May 8, 22. Jun 5, 19. Jul 3, 17. Aug 7, 21. Sep 4, 18. Oct 2, 16. Nov 6, 13.
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*Terms & conditions apply. Offer valid for limited time and limited stock only. ^Depreciation benefits applicable for business owners only Benefits may vary basis model or pack (variant) chosen by the customer. For detailed information, please connect with your nearest dealership.

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'Curb open sale of canned drinks containing alcohol and high sugar content near schools'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) has written to the Drugs Control Department recently urging it to restrict the open sale of canned drinks that allegedly contains 15% alcohol and high sugar content, particularly near schools and colleges.

The commission raised the concern after reports surfaced on social media claiming that a particular brand of canned drink contains alcohol despite appearing similar to a regular juice beverage. In the letter, the SCPCR warned that easy availability of such products could expose children to alcohol without their knowledge. According to the commission, children may unknowingly consume the drink believing it to be a fruit juice or soft drink. It cautioned that consumption of alcohol and high sugar drinks at a young age could have serious consequences on children's physical and mental health and may affect their overall development in the long run.

Executive director of private hospital booked for rape

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An executive director of a private hospital in South Bengaluru has been booked on charges of rape and criminal intimidation based on a complaint lodged by an administrative executive of the hospital. The Siddapura police have registered an FIR against Trivikram Rao, the executive director of a private hospital located near Ashoka Pillar in Jayanagar.

According to the victim, she joined the organisation around three months ago. The accused allegedly began asking her to accompany him to client and investor meetings.

She alleged that on the pretext of professional discussions, he subjected her to repeated sexual harassment.

On one such occasion, Rao allegedly invited her for a meeting at a star hotel and raped her.

The victim further alleged that the accused threatened her with termination if she disclosed the incident to anyone. Unable to cope with the harassment and intimidation, she resigned from her position and later approached the police.

The complaint was lodged three days ago, while the alleged incident was said to have occurred about a month earlier. The police said that the accused was currently absconding. Efforts are under way to apprehend him.

North division police recover 107 stolen mobile phones worth ₹21.4L

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a special operation, the North Division police recovered 107 stolen and lost mobile phones worth around ₹21.4 lakh using the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal and returned them to their rightful owners on Monday.

The operation covered 13 police stations. The police personnel traced the missing phones using the CEIR system, which helps block and track mobile devices based on their IMEI numbers.

According to the police, the phones were recovered between February and March 9, 2026.

The recovered devices, belonging to various brands, were handed over to the owners by B.S. Nemagouda, Deputy Commissioner of Police, North Division.

The drive was carried out by teams from all police stations in the the Malleswaram, Yeshwanthpur, and J.C. Nagar sub-divisions, along with officers of the CEN Cyber Crime Police Station.

The police urged the public to register details of lost or stolen mobile phones on the CEIR portal or file a complaint at the nearest police station.

The police in the advisory added that citizens should immediately report lost phones and submit the device's IMEI number to help authorities to block and track the handset through the CEIR system.

TNPL — TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
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Ph.: 04324-277001 (10 Lines). Email: pmd.civil@tnpl.co.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Work Description	Due date
252613 007780	Repair and Painting works in "F" type quarters in TNPL Housing Colony at TNPL Unit I - Phase I.	20.03.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/1665/Tender/2026 — *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
APPLICATION NOTIFICATION NO. B/C.210/Halt/2025-26/SBC Division, Date: 02.03.2026
The undersigned on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed applications for appointment of Halt Agent from educated unemployed persons residing in and around the Kempegowda International Airport (KIAD), Someshwar (SMWA) and Jannagatta (GJT) Train Halt station for issuing Unreserved tickets on Commission Basis for a period of five (05) years or till up-gradation of the station whichever is earlier.

Sl.No.	Halt Station	Section	To Start Function from
1	Kempegowda International Airport (KIAD)	Yelahanka	Date will be notified by the Administration
2	Someshwara (SMWA)		
3	Jannagatta (GJT)		

Date and time of submission of application From : **10:00 Hrs. to 16:00 Hrs. on 06.04.2026**
For details log on : **www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in**
PUB/966/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26 — **Senior Divisional Manager/Bengaluru**
Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
[South Western Railway (Construction Organization)]
NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru, the 24th February, 2026
S.O. 961(E).- In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-Section (1) of Section 20A of the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which has been given in the Schedule annexed hereto, is required for the execution of the Special Railway Project, namely. "Construction of ROB in lieu of LC No.72 at Km: 164/200-300 (Mulavad Village)" in the State of Karnataka, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land:
Any person interested in the said land may, within Thirty days from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette, raise objection and use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of Section 20D of the said Act:
Every such objection shall be made to the competent authority, namely, Incharge Land Acquisition Officer Assistant Commissioner Vijayapur and Regional Commissioner, Belagavi for "Construction of ROB in lieu of LC No. 72 at Km: 164/200-300 (Mulavad Village)" in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the competent authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections:
Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of Section 20D of the said Act shall be final:
The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid Office of the competent authority.

SCHEDULE

Sl.No.	Name of the Village	Survey Nos.	Part	Area in Hectare
1	Mulavad	589	4	0.2125
2	Mulavad	609	-	0.2125
3	Mulavad	610	-	0.0708
4	Mulavad	612	2	0.0405
5	Mulavad	613	3	0.0911
6	Mulavad	613	6	0.0506
7	Mulavad	619	-	0.0911
8	Mulavad	620	-	0.1012
			TOTAL	0.8701

[F. No.W.271/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727]
PUB/967/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26 — **PARDEEP PURI, Chief Engineer-III/Construction, Bangaluru Cantonment**
Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | @sw_railways

Government of Jharkhand
Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Co-operative
(Directorate of Dairy Development)
Jharkhand, Ranchi

Part- A
e-Tender for supply of Power Operated Chaff Cutter in different districts of Jharkhand State.
e-Tender No.- Dairy/06/2025-26
Online e-tenders are invited from sole Manufacturers/OEM/Authorized reseller/Partner for supply of 2032 unit Power Operated Chaff Cutter on rate contract basis in different districts of Jharkhand State as per details given below:-

Important Events

Sl.	Name of Work	Descriptions
1	Estimated Cost for Supply of 2032 unit Power Operated Chaff-Cutter	Estimated Cost ₹5,28,32,000.00
2	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	₹ 10,56,640.00 (Refundable)
3	Date of publication of Tender on Website	11.03.2026
4	Period of downloading of tender documents	Start Date 11.03.2026 at 05:00 PM
5	Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	13.03.2026 at 03:00 PM
6	Online Bid Submission Period	Start Date 11.03.2026 at 05:00 PM End Date 26.03.2026 at 02:00 PM
7	Date of Technical bid opening	27.03.2026 at 03:00 PM
8	Date of Opening of Financial Bid	Will be declared later on
9	Name & Address of the Office inviting e-Tender (Procurement Officer)	Director, Dairy, Directorate of Dairy Development, Training & Extension Institute Campus, Sector-2, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004, Jharkhand

***Units are Indicative**
Detailed tender document can be downloaded and applied through website http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in
Note: The above dates may change due to unavoidable circumstances.
Tender notification & Tender document can also be seen (only reading purpose) on the Departmental website http://animalhusbandry.jharkhand.gov.in
1. After publication of the N.I.T., the desirous bidders may download tender documents along with terms & conditions from the Website. https://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in and https:// www.jharkhand.gov.in but submit only through NIC e-tender portal https://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in.
2. Disclosure of rate other than financial bid will disqualify the bidder.
3. Validity of the contract Period – The validity of the rate contract shall generally be one year and shall not exceed two years.
4. EMD will be received through online mode only. Bidders can use internet banking facility for faster processing of EMD. Alternatively, bidders can use NEFT/RTGS challan generated for the tender from www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in portal.
5. All uploaded documents should be legible/readable if not tender may be rejected. Unsigned uploaded documents will be rejected.
6. The scheduled mentioned above is fixed; however, the undersigned reserves the right to change the date of activities in case of any exigencies through a notice in the government website https://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in and https:// www.jharkhand.gov.in & Notice Board at official address Director, Directorate of Dairy Development, Sector II, Dhurwa, Ranchi, PIN- 834004.

Director, Dairy
Directorate of Dairy Development
Jharkhand Ranchi
PR 374471 (Animal Husbandry)25-26*D

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED
ANGADI DIVISION
9th Floor, Sigapi Aachi Building, 18/3, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008. www.elcot.tn.gov.in | +91 44 2855 6120 | tenders@elcotangadi.in
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender No. E-ANGADI-ST-HO12-2026-0001
ELCOT Angadi Division invites **"Tender for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of IT Hardware for Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) 2.0 Project for Police, Prison, Prosecution and Forensics Departments across Tamil Nadu".** For complete details, please visit **www.tntenders.gov.in.** Pre-bid meeting: **24.03.2026, 11 AM.** Last date for submission of e-bids: **28.04.2026, 3 PM.** For queries: **tenders@elcotangadi.in.**
DIPR/1668/Tender/2026 — **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
Corporation Identification Number (CIN): U04010KA2002SGC030436
No: GESCOM/GM/DCA(A)/AO(A)/AAO(A)/Counselling/2025-26/91986 Date:09.03.2026
NOTIFICATION
In pursuance to GESCOM Employment Notification dated 14.10.2024 and Final Selection Lists published on 11.11.2025, for the posts of Junior Powerman(KK/NKK) in GESCOM, the counselling process for issuing appointment orders to the selected candidatesis scheduled to be held on 11.03.2026 has been postponed due to administrative reason to **24.03.2026 at 10:00AM at Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi-585102.** For more details please visit Recruitment link in GESCOM website. **https://gescom.karnataka.gov.in**
DIPR/Kalaburagi/1153/KSMC&A/2025-26 — **Sd/- General Manager (A & HRD), Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division,Hassan
IFT No.41/2025-26, Dated: 05.03.2026
Short term tenders are invited from eligible Agencies in two cover system through KPPP portal of GOK (website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for Hassan District works as per KW-3 maximum tender amount is Rs.80.58 lakhs & minimum tender amount is Rs.80.39 lakhs. The last date of receipt of tender is 13-03-2026 upto 5.30 PM hours. Further detail can be had from KPP-portal and the above office during office working hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Hassan.
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/1167/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **Mr.Jayavel G S/o Mr.Gemini** is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Mr. V.Ramappa S/o Late. Venkataramaiah** ; person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of Property Bearing **Site No. 11,** Katha No. 899, Assessment No. 116, situated at **Chikkanagamangala Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District,** measuring East to West **40 feet** and North to South **46 feet** in all totally measuring **1840 Square feet** and bounded on:
East by : Channel; West by : Road; North by : Site No.10; South by : Site No.12;
C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 9845846428, 9108784843, 080-48658774
E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby informed to the general public that my clients SRI. T.G. RAJU SRINIVAS, aged about 54 years, S/o. T.D. Ganesh, and SRI. T.G. KUMAR, aged about 53 years, S/o. T.D. Ganesh, both are residing at No. 5/10, Opp.13th Cross Road, Hosur Road, Behind Vignan Hospital, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru -560 027.
That my client intends to purchase the property described in the schedule hereto from its owner SRI. CHANDRASHEKAR, aged about 61 years, S/o.Hanumanthappa, residing at No.2090/5, 5th Block, Sir M. Vishsweswaraiah Layout, Ullalu Upanagar Post, Bengaluru-560 056. The present owner represent that he is the absolute owner of the schedule property and apart from him there are no other person/s having any right, title, interest or claim over the schedule property. Any persons having any objections or claims shall with documentary evidence lodge their objections/claims within 7 days from the date of this Notice with the undersigned failing which, my clients shall proceed with the above-mentioned transaction.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Site No. 5559**, Property No.BD006S190000089, PID No. 6000047565, 5th Block, P-Sector, BDA formed lay-out in Sy.Nos 5 and 7 of K.Krishnasagara Village, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Lay-out, Bangalore, measuring East to west 24.00 Meters and North to South 15.00 Meters, Totally measuring 360.00 Square Meters and bounded on the:
East by: Road,
West by: Site No. 5560,
North by: Site No. 5559/A,
South by: Site No. 5558
Yours Faithfully
Ramanan Selvam
Advocate
Contact- 9449434316

सशस्त्र बल चिकित्सा सेवा के नर्सिंग कॉलेज में शामिल हों
बीएससी (नर्सिंग) पाठ्यक्रम - 2026
JOIN COLLEGES OF NURSING UNDER AFMS
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सशस्त्र बल चिकित्सा सेवा के नर्सिंग कॉलेज में बीएससी नर्सिंग पाठ्यक्रम 2026 के लिए इच्छुक महिला उम्मीदवार का नीट (यूजी) 2026 परीक्षा में सफल होना अनिवार्य है। पात्रता, नियम एवं शर्तों की जानकारी रोजगार समाचार में प्रकाशित की जायेगी। यह सूचना इस वेबसाइट www.joinindianarmy.nic.in पर भी उपलब्ध होगी।
Female candidates desirous of seeking admission to BSc(N) 2026 course at Colleges of Nursing under AFMS have to mandatorily qualify NEET (UG) 2026. The Eligibility, Terms and Conditions will be published in the Employment News in due course of time. The same will also be available on the website
www.joinindianarmy.nic.in
CBC 10601/11/0070/2526

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

GRADUATION CEREMONY

Auden Public School organised a grand graduation ceremony for the outgoing Class X batch, marking an important milestone in the students' academic journey. The programme began with the ceremonial welcome of dignitaries and the lighting of the lamp. The chief guest, Smt. Lakshmi Chandrashekar, artist and educationist, addressed the gathering. Students were felicitated with mementoes and shared memories of their school years. The management and teachers blessed them and wished them success in their board examinations and future endeavours.

FOOTBALL FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

PM SHRI KV MEG & Centre, Bengaluru organised the Football for Schools (F4S) programme in collaboration with FIFA, as directed by the Ministry of Education, Government of India. The event was graced by Chief Guest Hon'ble MLA Shri Rizwan Arshad, Shivaji Nagar Constituency, Bengaluru. Guests of Honour included Shri M. Kumar, Secretary, KSFA, Bengaluru, and Ms. Chitra Gangadharan, former Indian Captain. Shri Shaik Tajuddin, Deputy Commissioner, KVS, RO Bengaluru, and Assistant Commissioners Shri R. Pramod, Shri R. M. Sokalla, and Smt. Hema K. were present. Footballs were distributed to representatives of 42 schools.

GOLDEN JUBILEE AND MONTESSORI GRADUATION CELEBRATED

Ryan International School, Kundalahalli celebrated the Ryan Group's Golden Jubilee during their Annual Day and Montessori Graduation Day under the theme "Brave the Present, Rise to the Future." The highlight was the unveiling of the Golden Jubilee logo. Cultural performances reflected themes of wildlife conservation, environmental protection, social media awareness, defence forces and women empowerment, along with German and Vietnamese dances. A musical medley, "Sound of Success," traced the Ryan legacy. Montessori students received certificates and presented dances and a musical skit. The celebrations reflected the vision of Chairman Dr. Augustine Pinto and Madam Grace Pinto.

For Subscription related queries, please contact Raghavendra Desai: Handphone:+91 9986196254 | Email: desai.rnb@thehindu.co.in

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Mrs.Premila Jayamohan B.A(Hons.) History
10.03.2026 (1st Death Anniversary)

Beloved w/o Late Mr.S. Jayamohan B.E. IRSE, Chief Materials Manager (Southern Railway) Retd.
A wonderful, inspiring, confident & stylish lady who gave utmost importance to values, principles and responsibilities. Truly, our Pillar of Strength.
You will always remain in our hearts as a very loving caring, beautiful and affectionate Sister, Mother, Mother-in-Law & Grandmother.
We miss you
Sharmila, Chitra, Sanjay (Daughters & Son), Sampath Kumar (Son-in-Law), Poonguzhali (Daughter-in-law), Shweta, Abhishek, Shilpa, Sriram & Sanjana (Grandchildren), Vishal (Grandson-in-law), Brothers and Sisters-in-law.

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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DEATH

C.S. RAMANI (85),
former DGM, Lakshmi Vilas Bank, passed away peacefully on March 3 at Austin, Texas, after a brief illness.
He began his banking career with UCO Bank, later serving at Grindlays Bank, and spent many years with Corporation Bank and Lakshmi Vilas Bank
He will be lovingly remembered and deeply missed by his family and friends.
Contact (WhatsApp only)
CR Narayanan: 98847 63621
CR Sudhakar: 95910 29136

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, LAVANYA Pittala, w/o; Balakishan Thigulla, r/o: No–11, Sri Ranganathaswamy Nilaya, Shivanandanagar, Kanakapura MN Rd, JP Nagar 6th PH, Blr – 560078. Have changed my name as Lavanya Thigulla.

I, DRAKSHAYANI Arvind Kittad, w/o; Subhas Chandra Mishra, r/o: Flar: 011,74/10C2, Sai Indraprastha Apt Rachenhalli Road, Thanisandra Bengaluru –560077. Have changed my name as Drakshayani Kittad.

I, CHINMAYE TUMKUR LOKESHA, D/o Lokesha, R/o No. 260, A/3/7, Datta Prasad Aprts,10th Main, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560003, have changed my name to CHINMAYE T L vide Affidavit No: IN KA00199220041798Y Dtd: 5/3/2026 sworn before Notary V Rangaramu, B'luru.

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

ANTHRO
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Call for deferring SA-2 exam in view of Ugadi, Id holidays

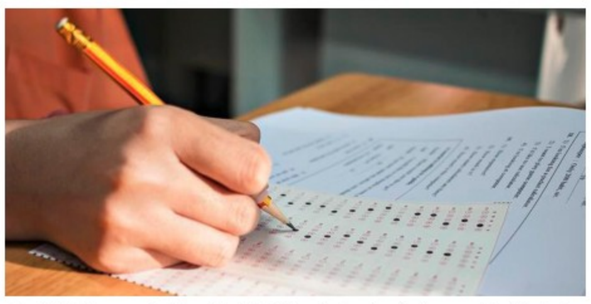
Parents and teachers have urged the DSEL to postpone the exam which is now scheduled to be held from March 20

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Parents and teachers have urged the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) to postpone or reschedule the Summative Assessment-2 (SA-2) annual exam for classes 6 to 9, which is now scheduled to be held from March 20, accounting for a series of holidays, including Ugadi and Id-ul-Fitr festivals.

The SSLC examination will begin across the State from March 18, and there is a government holiday on March 19 due to Ugadi. There is a 'Varshatodaku' on March 20, a holiday on March 21 due to Id and a Sunday holiday on March 22. There will be no exam for classes 6 to 9 students on Monday, March 23.

The DSEL is conducting the SA-2 for students of classes 6 to 9 of all government schools following the State curriculum for the year 2025-26. The SA-2 aims to understand the learning issues of students and follows a similar schedule across the State. The committee setting up the schedule had earlier suggested dates for the exam from March 24 to April 6, considering the SSLC examination, religious festivals, and government holidays, and submitted a report to the Department of State Educational Research and Training (DSERT). However, this was rejected and a new schedule from March 20 to April 4 was prepared and published on the DSERT website.



The DSEL is conducting the SA-2 for students of classes 6 to 9 of all government schools following the State curriculum for the year 2025-26 GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Stakeholders opposed

Various stakeholders, including parents and teachers, have opposed the schedule.

"Our high school on the outskirts of Bengaluru city has 70% migrant students. Most of these children are students from different districts of North Karnataka region and will be going to their hometowns with their parents for the Ugadi festival. There are holidays on four days after March 20. Therefore, it will be more convenient if the exam starts later. Many parents are requesting that the exam be postponed," said the head master of a government high school on the outskirts of Bengaluru.

"This year, the Ugadi festival has come a little early. Previously, exams were over by Ugadi. So, no students went to school on the Varshatodaku of the year. This year too, we have gone home for the festival. So, instead of the department spoiling the celebrations, it would be more beneficial if the exams were postponed," said Nagamma, a construction labourer in Bengaluru, hailing from Raichur district.

"The authorities should take into account all these (festivals and holidays) while preparing the examination schedule. There is no point in holding the examination for a day between festivals and holidays. It is permissible to hold the examination on any other day except on the Varshatodaku. Therefore, the examination scheduled for March 20 should be postponed. This matter will be brought to the attention of the School Education Minister," said Umesh G. Gangavadi, State president, School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC).

Boy accused in Ballari hostel case taken into custody

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

The Ballari Police have traced and secured the juvenile who is accused in a rampage case at a hostel attached to Gurukul International School in Ballari city on Saturday night that left one student dead and seven injured. He was traced after a 36-hour extensive search operation.

Addressing a joint press conference in Ballari on Monday, Inspector-General of Police (Ballari Range) P.S. Harsha and Superintendent of Police Suman D. Pennekar said that multiple police teams combed the city and the boy was, based on reliable information, traced at Gangappa Jina area of Ballari.

After tracking his movements through CCTV footage, a police team located him and brought him back for questioning. The teams also analysed footage from 7,500 CCTV cameras installed across the city and activated intelligence networks during the operation, which ultimately led to the securing of the minor accused, the officer explained.

Dr. Harsha said that since the case involved a juvenile in conflict with law, the investigation will follow procedures laid down under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act.

The boy will be produced before the authorities concerned after medical evaluation and counselling. Investigators are also questioning him to determine the exact sequence of events leading to the attack. Apart from the police, the investigation team will include a general physician, a clinical psychologist, a psychiatrist and a counsellor from the District Child Protection Unit. The officials will handle the case strictly in accordance with provisions of the Act, he added.

The investigation will examine all possible angles behind the incident and also look into the role of the school, if any.

A requisition has been sent to the Department of School Education seeking a thorough inspection of the institution to ascertain whether there were any irregularities.

"More than a case, this incident has raised larger questions and challenges about parenting, the upbringing of children and the role of educational institutions in providing a supportive ecosystem," Dr. Harsha said.

Ms. Pennekar said that police teams combed public places, isolated locations across the district and roads connecting neighbouring States during the search operation.

The teams also checked pilgrimage routes used by devotees travelling to Srisailam Temple and Mantralayam Temple in Andhra Pradesh before finally securing the juvenile.

HC declines to quash female foeticide case against govt. doctor, others

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that "female foeticide is not merely a statutory offence, it is a moral blight and a constitutional affront", the High Court of Karnataka has refused to quash the criminal case registered against a radiologist at a district government hospital and others for sex determination after a 26-year-old woman was aborted after sex determination.

"The sequence of events, as unfolded from the complaint and the accompanying documents, discloses a chilling and interconnected chain of facts that culminated in extinguishment of a nascent life. The complaint lodged by a public servant, the District Health and Family Welfare Officer, is neither vague nor speculative as is contended, on the contrary it is lucid in narration, precise in its detail and grave in its import," the court said.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while dismissing three accused in the sex determination case, Sardamma and her husband Dase Gowda, of Channapatna taluk, and Shashi S.L., 56, who was a radiologist at the district hospital, Ramanagara.

The case revolves around an incident on August 22, 2025, when Channakeshava and his wife Harshitha, who was pregnant with her third child after having two female children, allegedly embarked upon a deliberate quest to ascertain the sex of the unborn child.

With the help their relatives and Sardamma and Dase Gowda, the woman underwent an illegal sex determination scan at the district hospital through Dr. Shashi, who disclosed sex of the foetus through coded communication.

After disclosure that the foetus was female, monetary negotiations ensued, prohibitory medication was administered at a private clinic and the pregnant woman was sent back, only to suffer profuse bleeding the very same night, leading to the death of the foetus.

While the woman's husband, Channakeshava, has been arraigned as accused number no. 1, the complaint has alleged that the present incident is not an isolated case of sex determination but a systematic racket is behind it as Sardamma and Dase Gowda were said to be agents to bring patients for sex determination.

Referring to the apex court judgments, which repeatedly underscore that leniency, at the threshold in such matters, risks rendering the law a dead letter and emboldening those who trade in gender discrimination under the cloak of medical expertise, the High Court said that it is not a fit case to interfere at this stage.

Review of PCPNDT Act in the offing

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao on Monday said that he had asked for the review of the Pre Conception and Pre Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994, that is in place to prevent female foeticide even as introduction of mobile scanning units and availability of medicines in pharmacies to terminate pregnancies up to 24 weeks have emerged to be challenging.

Speaking in the Legislative Council, he said that three persons have received ₹1 lakh prize for providing information on violation of this law, and that 70 cases were in courts, while in 80 cases fines had been levied. The FIRs have been lodged against three doctors and five nurses. He also said that the registration of pregnant women that were being done at 12 weeks was now being done at 10 weeks.

'India should partner with Japan in its mobility, clean energy journey'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

The arrival of Japan's Suzuki in India in the early '80s triggered a transformation in India's automobile industry, which grew exponentially since then; and now, it is time that India worked closely with Japan again towards its journey to the new age mobility seeking to build newer pathways of energy sources, urged V.K. Saraswat, member, NITI Aayog here on Monday.

India and Japan brought complementary strengths to the future of mobility. While India offered scale, market growth and expanding capabilities in software and AI, Japan contributed advanced technological depth, engineering excellence and global leadership in safety and mobility systems, he said while speaking at the Japan-India Mobility Summit 2026 (JIMS 2026) in the city. Today, India has a huge manufacturing ambition supported by a policy commitment to diversify in the energy sector, he said.

V.K. Saraswat, member of the NITI Aayog, speaking during the summit. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Large-scale testbed

"India can serve as a large-scale testbed for new technologies like hydrogen grid corridors, mobility as a service integration, grid interactive EV systems and so on," he said. He further said that Japan offered advanced technological support in mobility, power-semiconductor leadership, and high-speed rail engineering, and cited the Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train project as an example.

According to Mr. Saraswat, Japan's expertise in safety engineering and signalling systems can significantly improve traffic management and road safety. Integration of smart mobility with smart urbanisation, integrating rail networks with urban growth models, offering valuable insights in establishing multimodal hubs and high-density planning, etc were possible under collaboration. He said India should focus on plug-in hybrid vehicles across the spectrum and expand plug-in hybrid adoption in high-end cars to small vehicles. PHEVs (plug-in hybrid electric vehicle) have both an engine and a motor, and one can choose among the fuels, i.e., conventional fuel or alternative fuel such as bio-diesel.

He added the next phase of Indo-Japanese partnership should not only move beyond infrastructure, but also towards technology co-creation, from hydrogen mobility and smart transport systems to next-generation vehicles and integrated mobility platforms.

Lokayukta team finds multiple violations during inspection of lakes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A team led by Lokayukta B.S. Patil and Upa Lokayuktas K.N. Phaneendra and B. Veerappa conducted inspections of several lakes and surrounding areas in Bengaluru on Monday and found multiple violations including encroachments, dumping of waste and inflow of sewage into the waterbodies. Mr. Patil inspected Sompura Lake in Banashankari 6th Stage and visited the Lingadheeranahalli solid waste processing unit nearby. Officials from the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) briefed the Lokayukta about the Interception and Diversion System (IPS) project aimed at preventing sewage from entering the lake.

The authorities said wastewater flowing into the lake would be diverted and pumped to a sewage treatment plant to keep the waterbody clean. The Lokayukta directed officials to ensure that the IPS project was executed properly without lapses and submit periodic progress reports. Local residents raised complaints seeking fencing of the inner lake boundary to prevent misuse of the lake area. During the visit to the Lingadheeranahalli solid waste processing unit, residents complained about foul smell, flies and leachate issues. The Lokayukta instructed the GBA officials to immediately address these problems and submit a compliance report within three days.

In front of Mate Savitri Bapu Kousalya Bhavan, heaps of garbage had piled up and had not been cleared.

At the Tin Factory area, a storm-water drain near the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and police quarters was clogged with garbage, obstructing the free flow of water. The officials were instructed to remove the waste.

Abandoned vehicles

Several abandoned and damaged vehicles had also been parked along both sides of the road for many days. Mr. Veerappa directed officials to impose penalties on the owners and register cases if necessary.

At the NGV area in Koramangala, weeds, fallen tree branches and other waste were found accumulated in a storm-water drain near the judicial officers' quarters, preventing water from flowing properly and leading to mosquito breeding. The officials were instructed to clear the drain at the earliest.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, MAR. 10	
RISE 06:30	SET 18:29
RISE 00:00	SET 10:57
WEDNESDAY, MAR. 11	
RISE 06:30	SET 18:30
RISE 00:19	SET 11:46
THURSDAY, MAR. 12	
RISE 06:29	SET 18:30
RISE 01:12	SET 12:37

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	33	21
Bengaluru	34	20

Bengaluru Today
34°C The weather will be dry. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be slight cool.

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THE HINDU
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Indian Overseas Bank
Information Technology Department
Central Office: 763, ANNA SALAI, CHENNAI-600002

Indian Overseas bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:
GOVERNMENT E-MARKET PORTAL - Selection of System Integrator (SI) for Unified IT Support Services for the Bank.
BID NO: GEM/2026/B/7322785 DATED 06.03.2026
Kindly note that the earlier tender floated vide bid ref no: GEM/2025/B/6919628 dated 24.11.2025 is cancelled
The Above GEM Tender document is also available and can be downloaded from the following websites **www.iob.bank.in** & **www.gem.gov.in** For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website **www.gem.gov.in**

UTTAR PRADESH MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)
Notice Inviting Tender
Tender Ref. No: UPMSCL/Drugs-251/33 & 252/32 Dated: 06-03-2026
E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF DIAGNOSTIC KITS & INCECTICIDE TO UTTAR PRADESH MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
Online tenders are invited from licensed manufacturers for supply of Dengue Ns-1 Kit (tender ref. no 251/33)& Cyphenothrin 5 % EC (tender ref no. 252/32) to UPMSCL. The details of tender, list of items and Tender Documents are made available on website https://etender.up.nic.in and www.upmsc.in. The last date/time of online submission of the tender documents for tender ref. no 252/33 is 24-03-2026 up to 15:00 Hrs & for tender ref. no 251/33 is 01-04-2026 up to 15:00 Hrs.
Managing Director
UPMSCL, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chickpete Division, BBMP, No.194, T.Mariyappa Road, Opp.to Lalbagh South Gate, Siddapura Circle, Bengaluru-560 011.
e-mail: eeckpbccc@gmail.com
No: EE/CKP/E-PROC/13/2025-26 Date: 09-03-2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru Central City Corporation invites Short term request for proposal for Parking Fee Collection at vacant land near National College , K.R. Road-2nd Call.
Following are the Events of Bid Process: (1) Date of Commencement of Download of Document from KPP Portal website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in: **10.03.2026 onwards.** 2) Last date & time for uploading online Queries in e-Portal: **16.03.2026 upto 2.30 p.m.** 3) Date and time of Pre-bid meeting : **16.03.2026 at 3.00 p.m.** at the following venue: Office of the Executive Engineer, Chickpete Division, BCCC, No. 194, T. Mariyappa Road, Opp. to Lalbagh South Gate, Siddapura Circle, Bengaluru-560 011.(4) Last date & time for uploading of RFP in KPP Portal : **17.03.2026 upto 4.00 p.m.** (5) Date and time of Online Opening of RFP: **18.03.2026 at 4.30 p.m.** (6) Place of Opening of Applications: **Online at KPP Portal.** (7) Address for communication: Office of the Executive Engineer, Chickpete Division, BCCC, No.194, T. Mariyappa Road, Opp. to Lalbagh South Gate, Siddapura Circle, Bengaluru-560 011.
1. Tender documents may be downloaded from the website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
2. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Chickpete Division,
Bengaluru Central City Corporation

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APPENDIX-IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers and Guarantors that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of The Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd. Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 26.03.2026 for recovery of **Rs. 7,93,68,362.91 (Rupees Seven crores ninety three lakhs sixty eight thousand three hundred sixty two paise ninety one Only)** as on 26.02.2026 due to Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd, Secured Creditor from **(1) M/s. Bijith International Builders,** represented by its Prop: **Mr. T.U. Balan,** No. G1, Bank Avenue (Bijith Towers) 7th Cross, Nanjappa Garden, Kalyan Nagar, Babusapalaya, Bangalore-560043 and **(2) Smt. Shoba Balan,** W/o Sri T.U .Balan & **(3) Sri. Subith Balan,** S/o. Sri.T.U.Balan, all residing at 601, Bank Avenue, Bijith Towers, 7th cross, Nanjappa Garden, Kalyan Nagar, Babusapalya, Bangalore-560043 and also at: Sy. No. 57/1, 57/, Engadiyur Village, Chavakkad Taluk, Thrissur District, Kerala.
The reserve price will be as follows:

Sl. No	Description of the of the Property Proposed for Sale	Reserve Price (Rs)
1	25.94 Cents (10.50 Are) of Residential land and building at Survey Number 57/1, No.4/210/C, Chavakkad Thaluk, Engandiyur village, Thrissur District, Kerala State in the name of T.U.Balan.	Reserve Price Rs. **1,38,00,000/-** Earnest money deposit Rs.13,80,000/-
2	Residential flat of 1379 sq.ft at flat No.109 at Bijith Classic, K. Narayanapura Main Road, Christu Jayanthi College, Kothanur PO, Bangalore in the name of T.U. Balan.	Reserve Price Rs. **52,00,000/-** Earnest money deposit Rs. 5,20,000/-

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Dhanlaxmi Bank's website i.e. www.dhan.bank.in.
Place : Hyderabad **Authorized Officer**
Date : 05.03.2026 **Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd.**

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Government rules out closure of KSIC factory, construction of stadium

Sericulture and Animal Husbandry Minister says plans are on to boost production of Mysore Silk, which is in high demand

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Monday informed the Legislative Assembly that the Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation (KSIC) Filature Factory, located at T. Narsipur in Mysuru district and popularly known as the Mysore Silk Factory, will not be closed. The plan to construct a stadium on its premises has been shelved.

Sericulture and Animal Husbandry Minister K. Venkatesh stated that plans are being made to boost production to meet the rising demand for the premium silk brand, Mysore Silk. The 114-year-old factory earned a net profit of ₹101.15 crore in 2024-25. It produced 3,10,667 saris during the last three years (2022-23 to 2024-25) and sold 3,09,659 saris, recording more than 99% sales.

Replying to a question from T.S. Srivathsa, BJP MLA, the Minister said the factory earned net profits of ₹46.75 crore, ₹73.40 crore, and ₹101.15 crore in 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25, respectively.

Historic place

The Minister's clarification came amid a proposal to construct a sports stadium on the factory land. The factory, established in 1912 by Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar, supplies raw silk to weaving units and supports the production of the famous Mysore Silk saris. The Minister said some officials provided wrong information and misguided the employees and public about the closure of the unit.

Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, Mysuru MP, had earlier met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and submitted a plea seeking protection of the factory.

The Minister admitted that women often stand in queues for more than three hours outside KSIC showrooms to buy saris. Buyers can also place orders through the KSIC online portal, though the range of choices is limited, he said. Mr. Srivathsa underlined the need to bridge the demand-supply gap.

To meet the growing demand, an additional 7,500 metres of fabric is being produced every month using extra looms at the T. Narsipur unit and Channapatna, the Minister said.

Intervening in the discussion, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok, who visited the factory last week, said some employees are reportedly being paid ₹3,000 per month, which he described as negligible compared to the minimum wages fixed by the government.

Mr. Ashok suggested that the government identify alternative land in the district to construct the stadium and take steps to protect both the factory land and the GI-tagged Mysore Silk saris, known for their distinctive sheen and texture.

Suresh Gowda, BJP MLA, urged the government to appoint an efficient managing director to the corporation to help meet the rising demand for saris. Sources told *The Hindu* that "a powerful Minister" had been attempting to shut down the mother factory to set up a private silk unit near Bengaluru.

'Victory for workers'

Mr. Ashok, in a post on X, said, "The Congress government has finally been forced to withdraw its bizarre proposal to construct a stadium on the five-acre land of the historic KSIC Filature Factory at T. Narsipur. It is a clear victory for the workers and for all those who stood up to protect KSIC Mysore Silk – a proud symbol of Karnataka's heritage."

Around 200 employees of the KSIC mother unit had been staging a protest opposing the proposed acquisition of land for a sports stadium.

The KSIC filature factory in T. Narsipur supplies raw silk to weaving units in Channapatna and for the production of the famous Mysuru Silk saris to the plant in Mysuru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

At a glance

Number of saris sold: 1,03,347

Net sales: ₹296.20 crore

Net profit: ₹101.15 crore

KSIC planning to double capacity at factory

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation (KSIC) will soon begin the process for expanding the capacity of its filature factory in T. Narsipur by increasing its present output of raw silk from 250 kg per day to 500 kg per day.

The raw silk produced by the factory is used for manufacturing silk saris, dhotis and other silk garments by the silk weaving factories of KSIC in Mysuru and Channapatna.

After the government approved a proposal to construct a stadium on a portion of the KSIC's filature factory premises, a little over five acres of land had been transferred to the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports (DYES) for the purpose. "Now, the land has to be transferred back to KSIC," an official said.

250 kg of raw silk

The factory is presently producing 250 kg of raw silk every day from the two Automatic Reeling Machines (ARMs) and the Semi Automatic Reeling Machine (SARM). "We will shortly install one more ARM and take up civil works for installation of another ARM. Once these works are completed, the factory will be able to double its production of raw silk," the official added.

Around 200 factory employees, on strike for the last few days, resumed work on March 6 after officials convinced them that the government will drop the stadium project.

Meanwhile, the government's decision to withdraw its plan to construct a stadium at the factory premises has been welcomed by environmentalists and other groups, who had organised protests against such a move.

Parisarakkagi Naavu's Parashurame Gowda referred to Mr. Venkatesh's statement in the Legislative Assembly that officials had provided incorrect information about the site's suitability for the stadium and said their organisation had maintained from the very beginning that the site for the stadium was a "hasty and irrational" decision.

IN THE LEGISLATURE

State could be party in case against Kerala govt. on Malayalam Bhasha Bill

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Bilkis Bano

Congress member Bilkis Bano urges the State to persuade the Kerala government to bring an amendment to the legislation to keep Kasaragod district out of its purview

Karnataka could join the legal struggle against the Kerala government over mandating Malayalam in all educational institutions. After Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar gave his assent to the Malayalam Bhasha Bill last week, the Karnataka State Border Area Development Authority (KSBADA) is preparing to be a party in the case to be filed before the Kerala High Court against the Bill, which it claims would harm the interests of the Kannada-speaking linguistic minority residing in Kasaragod district.

The passage of the Malayalam Bhasha Bill in the Kerala Legislature had triggered a strong response from Karnataka, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah – in a letter to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan – asserting Karnataka's right to protect the interests of Kannadigas in Kerala.

Government sources said KSBADA officials held consultations with Law and Parliamentary Affairs officials, and based on their advice, the body is likely to be a party in the case, expected to be filed in the Kerala High Court by aggrieved Kannada speakers/Kannada organisations. "The case may be filed after the gazette notification. Once the petition is filed in the Kerala High Court, there is a possibility of requesting the court to move the case to a high court outside Kerala too," sources aware of the developments told *The Hindu*.

Terming the Bill's provisions that mandate Malayalam as a compulsory first language up to class 10 across Kerala as "unconstitutional", the Karnataka government had urged the Governor not to give assent on the grounds that the rights of the linguistic minorities protected under Article 350A and 350B would be violated.

Pointing to what it called "contradictions" in the provisions of the Bill, the Karnataka government had sought an explicit exemption for the Kannada-speaking regions in Kerala. While Clause 6(1) makes Malayalam a compulsory first language in all government and aided schools in Kerala up to class 10, Clause 7(2) allows students whose mother tongue is any language other than Malayalam to pursue a language of their choice, sources said.

K.M. Ballakuraya, president of Kasaragod-based Karnataka Sangha, said that a meeting of Kannada organisations have been called on Tuesday to decide on the legal course of action. "We have decided to approach the High Court. However, we are seeking advice on whether the case has to be filed as a writ petition or a public interest litigation, and whether the case should be filed by a group of parents or by organisations," he added. Since January, Kannada organisations in Kasaragod have been seeking withdrawal of the Bill.

Meanwhile, in the Legislative Council, Congress member Bilkis Bano on Monday urged the State government to persuade the Kerala government to bring an amendment to the legislation to keep Kasaragod district out of its purview. She also suggested that the two States could jointly set up a high-level committee to review the legislation. "Those living in the border district are anxious about the provisions of the legislation. The Karnataka government should intervene," she said.

'Drug supply will be streamlined by next month'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Monday told the Legislative Council that unlike in the past when medicines were bought for the entire year, they are now being bought for three months based on need.

Medicines would often expire since they were bought for the whole year. Now, purchases are staggered. "Earlier, quality was checked after medicines were supplied to hospitals. Now, quality is checked before supply, causing some delay. By next month, drug supply will be streamlined," he said

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaking at an orientation programme for Congress legislators in Bengaluru on Monday.

DKS to host dinner meeting for legislators today

D.K. Shivakumar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar will host a dinner for Congress MLAs and MLCs on Tuesday to mark the completion of six years as the president of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC).

"There is a dinner meet on Tuesday and a Congress Legislature Party meeting the day after," he said. Under his leadership, the Congress returned to power in the 2023 Assembly elections.

'Separate dinner'

Speaking to reporters at Karnataka Bhavan in Delhi on Monday, Mr. Shivakumar said he would organise a separate dinner for defeated candidates, district presidents, and block presidents on another day.

On being asked about his meetings in Delhi, the KPCC chief stated, "I meet everyone when I come to Delhi. You (the media) report that I was made to wait by the Delhi leaders."

Stating that there was a wedding in a friend's family, he said, "Hence, I came to Delhi on Sunday. I met the Assam Pradesh Congress president on Monday. There were many programmes, including the induction of several leaders into the party."

Revive Badanavalu Khadi Centre as model rural industry: Report

Laiqh A. Khan
MYSURU

The Badanavalu Khadi Centre in Nanjangud taluk of Mysuru district. M.A. SRIRAM

With the ₹40 crore boost cleared by the State Cabinet, a group of Gandhians has called for revitalising the historic Badanavalu Khadi Centre in Nanjangud taluk into a model of sustainable rural industry rooted in Gandhian principles. The recommendation comes months after the State Cabinet, during a meeting held at Malai Mahadeshwara Hills, near Mysuru, in April 2025, gave its nod for the financial assistance. The allocation follows a promise made during Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's visit to the Khadi centre on Gandhi Jayanti in 2022 during his Bharat Jodo Yatra.

Subsequently, the Karnataka Khadi Board sought a report from a group of Gandhians on the roadmap for the Badanavalu Khadi's Centre's revival.

The report by Prasanna from Gram Seva Sangh, Jayadev from Deena Bandhu Ashram, Chamarajanagar, and Prof. Shivraj from Gandhi Bhavan, Bengaluru – all recipients of the prestigious Mahatma Gandhi Seva Puraskar – was submitted to D.R. Patil, chairperson of the Decentralisation Committee of Government of Karnataka, during his visit to Badanavalu recently, in the presence of Dhruvanarayan, Nanjangud MLA.

While making a note that the Khadi centre is currently plagued by "poor management", with spinning activity halted owing to lack of raw materials and workers going unpaid for months, the report recalls how the Badanavalu centre, established by local Gandhians on the advice of the Mahatma during the pre-Independence period, was a "beacon of light" for the entire region.

The centre not only produced Khadi that was exported to England, but had also diversified into village industries, like cold-pressed oil, handmade paper, candles, match-boxes, and other natural products.

While arguing for reintroduction of the village industry products to improve profitability, the Gandhians said the diversification into non-Khadi products should take place gradually in a phased manner. The region surrounding Badanavalu, unlike irrigated areas elsewhere, falls under a rain-shadow zone, where agriculture alone cannot sustain livelihood due to erratic rainfall and groundwater depletion, leading to migration towards cities.

Hence, the village industries, particularly Khadi and related activities, should supplement agricultural income and stabilise the rural economy, the report stated, while emphasising the complementary role of cottage industries to make Badanavalu relevant. As Gandhian principles also seek to engage an underutilised workforce, particularly women and elderly more than the able-bodied males for labour, the Khadi and Village Industry model helps involve women in productivity and economic activity even while they stay close to home.

The report stresses that the heritage value of the centre, whose "beauty and dignity lies in its utter simplicity and naturalness", must be preserved.

Another important shift recommended in the report is the positioning of Khadi as a "premium, authentic and sustainable product" rather than competing with cheap imitations. "Proudly declare Badanavalu Khadi as a pure product," the report recommends.

The Gandhians pointed out that quality of the product needs improvement while the product design too needs attention, but felt that the biggest gap lies in marketing and brand building.

A major recommendation is to adopt a cluster development approach, linking Badanavalu with nearby weaving and spinning centres, such as Tagadur and other production villages. "The combined heritage value should then be built into the Khadi product, and projected as brand value," the report stated. Instead of fragmented operations, a coordinated cluster would allow shared infrastructure, training, marketing support, and management expertise, the Gandhians felt.

The report calls for making use of the Gandhi Bhavans in all the districts, that are lying unused, to either set up production or sales counters for Khadi and village industry products.

Will have to approach court to seek justice on devolution of funds: CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Heightening the Congress government's fight against the Centre with respect to devolution of funds, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday indicated that the State might approach courts to seek justice.

"The Centre has been constantly meting out injustice to Karnataka in terms of devolution of funds. But it is difficult to get justice from the GST Council as a majority of its members are from the BJP. Hence, going to the court is the only option for us," the Chief Minister told the Congress legislators while interacting with them on various aspects of the Budget at an orientation programme organised by the Karnataka Assembly Secretariat in Bengaluru.

He pointed out that the State had earlier managed to get drought relief assistance of about ₹3,000 crore from the Centre after it had approached the Supreme Court.

The Chief Minister also brushed aside the allegations of the Opposition that he had borrowed indiscriminately and pointed out that the State's total loan burden that stood at ₹8.24 lakh crore was well within 25% of GSDP as per norms. However, the Centre's loan burden of ₹2.18 lakh crore accounted for 55.6% of GDP. Similarly, the fiscal deficit of the State was well within the 3% limit as against the Centre's 4.4%, he said.

The Chief Minister, who presented his 17th State Budget a few days ago, appeared to have set the tone for the debate to ensue on the State Budget during this interaction by squarely blaming the Centre for the revenue deficit.

The Opposition – BJP and JD(S) members – stayed away from the orientation programme.

"The GST rationalisation by the Centre and the Finance Commission's decision to keep the State's share of devolution of Central funds at a lower rate besides the Centre's failure to provide full grants towards its share in the Centrally sponsored projects has come in the way of presenting the revenue surplus Budget. If we had received full grants from the Centre, we would have presented a revenue surplus Budget," he said.

He added that though Karnataka stood second in the country in terms of GST collection and passed on revenues to the tune of ₹4.50 lakh crore to the Centre, in return, the State would get only ₹73,000 core. "In other words, Karnataka will get only 15 paise for every rupee it gives to the Centre," he said.

Internal reservation: Rally planned on Thursday

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Accusing Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa of "blocking" the implementation of internal reservation for Scheduled Castes, the Committee for Internal Reservation on Monday said a rally will be held on Thursday "to teach the government a lesson".

Even as activists have threatened to launch an indefinite dharna if the Cabinet does not provide solution on Thursday, it is learnt that informally discussions are under way among leaders, Cabinet Ministers and senior bureaucrats belonging to different Dalit sub-groups on how sub-classification can be worked out within the 15% reservation quota for SCs. Discussions are also under way to possibly accommodate a quota for 59 nomadic communities that are now clubbed with "touchable" communities. A source said that the Cabinet is likely to discuss the possibilities on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Internal Reservation Committee secretary Basavaraj Kowthal told presspersons here on Monday that they would launch an indefinite dharna at Freedom Park if the Cabinet does not find solution to the impasse.

Demanding immediate withdrawal of the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms' February 27 notification, he said the State should take an all-party delegation to the Centre to build pressure to include it in the Ninth Schedule.

Left MPs question Rahul for remarks against Kerala CM

Brittas and Sandosh raise issue at INDIA bloc meet in Delhi and slam Rahul's remarks suggesting a collusion between ruling CPI(M) and BJP; MPs say the comments will dent unity of the grouping

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Rahul Gandhi and K.C. Venugopal at a recent meeting in Kerala.

Two Left MPs who attended the INDIA bloc meeting here on Monday expressed their "strong disagreement" with the senior Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, over his recent remarks against the Pinarayi Vijayan-led Left government in Kerala.

While the Congress and Left parties are allies in the INDIA bloc, they are opponents in Kerala.

At a public meeting in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday, Mr. Gandhi, referring to 36 cases against him and a 55-hour-long Enforcement Directorate interrogation, questioned why no action had been taken against Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan or his family [named in other cases]. "The reason is that they are working together. In fact, in Kerala it is not the CPM and the BJP, it is the CJP," he said, repeating a term used by the Kerala unit of the Congress – "Communist Janata Party".

At the INDIA bloc meeting, CPI(M) Rajya Sabha leader John Brittas, and CPI's P. Sandosh Kumar – said such comments against the Left Front government in Kerala were injurious to the unity of the bloc. According to leaders present at the meeting, Mr. Kumar first raised the issue. Mr. Brittas said the Left parties are an integral part of the bloc, which came together in Opposition to the BJP. Making such "inappropriate remarks" on the eve of the Parliament session, when the Opposition should be united, was not right,

Mr. Gandhi, it is learnt, did not respond to the MPs, and merely smiled.

Speaking to reporters, Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said the Left MPs attempted to raise the issue, but other leaders intervened, reminding them that this was not the appropriate platform.

'Minister's wife's appeal was ignored by police'

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Leader of the Opposition in the Kerala Assembly, V.D. Satheeshan, sought a reply from Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday on an allegation that the police failed to legally process a distress call from Transport Minister K.B. Ganesh Kumar's wife.

The Minister's wife, who spoke to journalists, accused Mr. Kumar of infidelity and said the Minister's staff tried to detain her when she tried to confront him. She alleged that the police response was inadequate. Mr. Satheesan said Mr. Vijayan who swore by women's safety owed the public an explanation.

The Minister said he was the victim of a witch-hunt by the Opposition.

TTD plans digital procurement portal to streamline tenders

AI-based system to verify suppliers, analyse market trends and integrate tendering, supply management and payments through a single digital platform, says official

G.P. Shukla
TIRUMALA

In a significant step towards transparency and administrative modernisation, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has initiated the development of a comprehensive Digital Procurement and Tender Management Portal aimed at streamlining its vast purchasing operations.

The proposed platform is expected to bring greater accountability, efficiency and technological sophistication to the procurement ecosystem that handles hundreds of transactions every year to support the temple of Lord Venkateswara.

The top echelons of the TTD held detailed deliberations on the prototype and design of the portal prepared by Radiant Infonet Private Limited, the firm entrusted with developing the digital framework.

The discussions focused on integrating advanced technological features to ensure that the entire procurement and tendering process is carried out through a secure and fully digital interface.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, TTD Additional Executive Officer Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary said that under the proposed system, suppliers interested in participating in tenders would first be required to register on the portal through an online verification mechanism. The credentials, experience and background of each applicant would then be rigorously scrutinised before granting eligibility, ensuring that only credible and qualified vendors are permitted to participate in procurement bids.

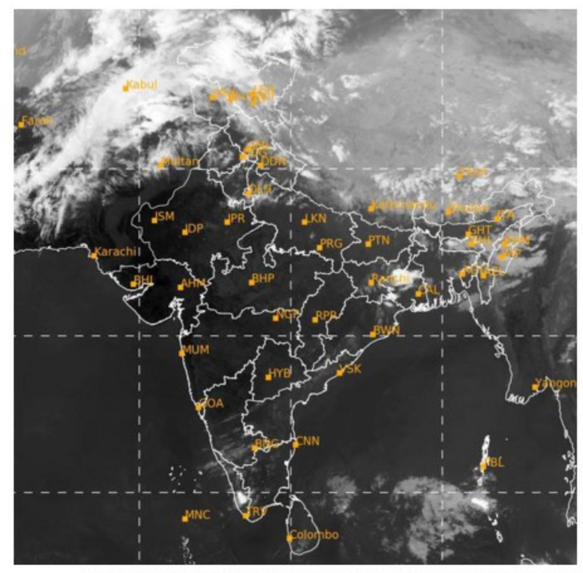
The initiative will help create a verified and reliable supplier database that can be used for future procurement activities, thereby strengthening institutional memory and vendor credibility.

The digital system will also play a crucial role in identifying and eliminating fraudulent suppliers and intermediaries, ensuring a level playing field for genuine vendors.

In a notable technological leap, the portal is expected to deploy Artificial Intelligence tools to analyse market trends, monitor price fluctuations and assess supply conditions, thereby enabling administrators to make more informed and cost-effective purchasing decisions.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Muzaffarabad. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.4	30.7	21.9	Kozhikode	—	35.0	27.1
Ahmedabad	—	41.2	21.8	Kurnool	—	37.5	23.2
Aizawl	—	28.4	16.3	Lucknow	—	34.9	20.4
Allahabad	—	36.2	20.0	Madurai	—	35.6	24.0
Bengaluru	—	31.5	20.6	Mangaluru	—	34.0	25.1
Bhopal	—	36.8	15.0	Mumbai	—	38.4	21.3
Bhubaneswar	—	33.4	23.4	Mysuru	—	33.0	20.4
Chandigarh	—	33.2	16.3	New Delhi	—	35.3	19.0
Chennai	—	32.9	24.7	Patna	—	31.5	23.7
Coimbatore	—	33.8	22.4	Port Blair	—	32.5	25.6
Dehradun	—	31.0	16.9	Puducherry	—	31.2	23.8
Gangtok	—	18.9	13.3	Pune	—	39.0	21.2
Goa	—	33.1	24.5	Raipur	—	37.8	23.7
Guwahati	—	31.6	23.4	Ranchi	—	32.9	19.0
Hubballi	—	37.0	21.0	Shillong	—	20.0	12.0
Hyderabad	—	34.6	21.9	Shimla	—	27.7	17.2
Imphal	—	30.2	16.3	Srinagar	—	22.4	6.4
Jaipur	—	37.8	22.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.4	24.7
Kochi	—	31.6	26.6	Tiruchi	—	34.7	23.6
Kohima	—	23.0	13.9	Vijayawada	—	32.0	24.0
Kolkata	—	32.7	24.2	Visakhapatnam	—	32.3	25.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.31	113	12	53	117	
Bengaluru	4	20	38	199	221	
Chennai	.15	10	31	74	64	
Delhi	.19	130	67	243	238	
Hyderabad	3	10	64	146	144	
Kolkata	6	36	35	94	84	
Lucknow	5	35	26	241	137	
Mumbai	.10	71	44	145	138	
Pune	—	69	18	231	195	
Visakhapatnam	5	46	18	55	83	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 335 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 31

Air Quality Code: Poor, Moderate, Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Kolkata Municipal Corporation
Sustainability, Hygiene and Resilience Project (KMC-SHARP)

INVITATION FOR BID Date. 10.03.2026

Kolkata Municipal Corporation represented by **Project Director, KMC-SHARP, 206, A.J.C Bose Road, 2nd Floor, Kolkata-700 017, West Bengal, India** invites eligible bidders to submit bids online in the e-Tendering platform of the Government of West Bengal (**URL: https://wbtenders.gov.in**) for the Works of :

Laying of Main Trunk Sewer Line along Anandapur Highway and in Anandapur Area including Construction of Pumping Station at Anandapur in Borough XII (Part of Ward 108); Contract Package No: KMC-SHARP/OCB/SD05A/2025-26

Bidders may download the tender document from **https://wbtenders.gov.in**

Bid submission start date (online) : From **14:30 hours** on **16.04.2026**

Bid submission closing date (online) : Up to **14:30 hours** on **30.04.2026**

KERALA COFFEE LIMITED
(A Government of Kerala Undertaking)
Park Centre, KINFRA Industrial Park, Menamkulam, Kazhakkoottam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Pin: 695586

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

KIIFCON Pvt Ltd on behalf of Kerala Coffee Limited, invites proposal for the following work.

Serial No.	Name of Work
1	DEVELOPMENT OF CARBON NEUTRAL COFFEE PARK AT KALPETTA, WAYANAD DISTRICT, KERALA - PACKAGE I (CIVIL WORKS) IN EPC MODE

Tender documents can be downloaded from e-tender Kerala portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in** from **13th March 2026** onwards.

Director- P&E
KIIFCON PVT LTD

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public hereby notified that my client **Mr. S. SUNDER VELU S/o. Late. Subramani**, residing at No.58, 71st 'A' Cross, 5th Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560 010 is the absolute owner and is in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Property mentioned below in the Schedule. He has lost/misplaced the Original Sale Deed dated 27-09-2004, registered as document No.KRI-1-17877-2004-05, stored in CD No.KRID73, registered in the office of the Sub-registrar, Krishnarajapuram, Bangalore, pertaining to the Schedule Property. In this connection, an E-Complaint has also been lodged on 09-03-2026 vide Lost Report No. 2099596/2026. I hereby call upon the General public if anyone is in custody or possession of the same or otherwise found the above said documents, kindly handover to undersigned immediately/within **7 days** and they may be suitably awarded and also I further bring into the notice of the general public that in case anyone dealing with the Schedule Property on the basis of the above said original documents, it shall not be binding on my client and the same will be an offence and they are liable to punish under the Criminal and Civil Law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of immovable residential property bearing **Site No.34** (Old Property No.14/8 and Khatha No.117/3), PID No. 86-90-34, **New PID No.2607329337,** situated at **1st Block, 2nd Cross, Shanthkumar Layout, Naganapalya, Baiyappanahalli, K. R. Puram, Bangalore East Taluk**, within the limits of BBMP, Ward No.59 (Maruthi Sevanagar), formerly Ward No.86, Bangalore, the site measuring East to West **40 feet** and North to South **30 feet** in all measuring **1200 square feet** together with the residential building constructed thereon, and bounded on:

East by : Road; West by : Site No. 15; North by : Site No. 33; South by : Site No. 35.

KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, "MEERA NIVAS"
Opp: Sai Baba Temple, North Park Road,
Seshadripuram Bangalore-500 020.
Mobile No.9740718436

Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Ltd
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the Work
01	CE / PROJECTS	Proposed comprehensive rehabilitation / reconstruction and raising of NCTPS Ash Dyke Bund

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: **www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in**

DIPR/1663/Tender/2026

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department
Directorate of Municipal Administration, Chennai-28. Tel: 044-29864447

Roc.No. 25245/2025/P1 Notice for Inviting Tender (NIT) - Corrigendum **Date: 09.03.2026**

Corrigendum has been issued with Roc. No. 25245/2025/P1, Date: 03.03.2026, published on 04.03.2026 in The Hindu Newspaper, for NIT published with Roc. No. 25245/2025/P1, Date: 16.02.2026 for Selection of concessionaire for redevelopment of old bus stand along with commercial development on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis (for 45 years) under PPP Mode at Namakkal, Tiruchirappalli, Hosur and Tiruvannamalai Corporations and Selection of concessionaire for development of commercial complex at Erode Central Bus Stand on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis (for 45 years) under PPP mode at Erode Corporation. Amendment has been made in the above-mentioned notice as follows.

In serial number 4 and 5, "10.03.2026" shall be read as "25.03.2026".

In serial number 6 and 7, "15.04.2026" shall be read as "21.04.2026".

Chief Engineer,
Directorate of Municipal Administration, Chennai-28

DIPR / 1671 / TENDER / 2026

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT, BENGALURU

O.S. No. 1387/2005

PLAINTIFFS : Sri. Thopaiah, since deceased, Represented by his Legal Representatives

(a) Sri Rangaswamy T. S/o. late Thopaiah Since deceased by his LRs', **1(a-1). Smt. Jayalakshmi,** W/o Late Rangaswamy T., Aged about 68 years, **1(a-2). Sri. Narendra Kumar R.**, S/o Late Rangaswamy T., Aged about 46 years, **1(a-3). Sri. Nataraju D.R.,** S/o Late Rangaswamy T., Aged about 44 years, **1(a-4). Smt. Bhagya R.** D/o Late Rangaswamy T., Aged about 42 years, **1(a-5). Sri . Kumar R.**, S/o Late Rangaswamy T., Aged about 39 years, **1(a-6). Sri. Sridhar R.** S/o Late Rangaswamy T., Aged about 36 years, 1 (a-1 to 6) together residing at Dinnepalya, Kaggalipura Post, Kanakapura Road, Bangalore -560 082.

1(b). Sri Nanjappa. T. S/o. late Thopaiah Aged about 51 years, Residing at No. 47, Near Temple, Kengeri palya, Kengeri Post, Mysore Road, Bangalore-60.

1(c). Sri. Nagaraju.T. S/o. late Thopaiah Aged about 44 years, Residing at No. 17, 1st Floor, 10th Cross, Vijayanagar Pipeline, Choulur palya, Bangalore-23.

1(d). Sri. Puttaraju, S/o. late Thopaiah, Aged about 36 years, No. 30, "Spoorthi", behind Soudamini Kalyanamantappa, 2nd Cross, New Bank Colony, Near Konanakunte, Bangalore-82.

V/s

DEFENDANTS : Smt. Sakamma and others

NOTICES TO THE PROPOSED DEFENDANT Nos. 6(a), 6(b) (i), 6(c) (ii), 6(e) & 9 U/O V RULE 20 C.P.C. 1908

P.D. No.6(a) Smt. Saroja D/o Late Mayamma & Chikkanna, Aged about 62 years, R/o Varadanayakanahalli Village, Jakkanahalli Post, Thyamgondlu Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District-562123.

P.D. No. 6(b) (i) Smt. Sunanda Devi R, W/o late Kantharaju. C. Aged about 58 years, R/o No.214, 2nd Main, 2nd Cross, Attur Layout, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560 064.

P.D. No. 6(c) (ii) Ms. Shilpa, D/o late Umesh C. Aged about 35 years, R/o Araledibba Village, Teppadabeguru, Nelamanagala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural Dist.,-562123.

P.D. No. 6(e) : Sri Shankar C. S/o late Mayamma & Chikkanna, Aged about 54 years, R/o Varadanayakanahalli Village, Jakkanahalli Post, Thyamagondlu Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District - 562 123.

P.D. No.9 : Smt. Shanthamma @ Shantha, major, D/o Late Kempamma & late Rudrappa R/o Tataguni Village, Tataguni Post, Uttarahali Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru-560 062.

Whereas the Plaintiff since deceased by his LRs above named have instituted the above suit before the PRINCIPAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT, BENGALURU against the defendants for Partition & Separate possession, Declarations, Permanent injunction and for other reliefs with respect to the suit schedule property viz.,

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item Nos. 1 & 2 : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy.Nos. 60 & 59 situated at Uttari Dakhale, Kaggalipura Grama Panchayath, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring 6 Acres 30 Guntas & 13 Guntas respectively and bounded on:- **East by :** Tank Road, **West by :** Chikkanarasappa Property, **North by :** Private property, **South by :** Road.

Item No.3 : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No.136 situated at Uttari Dakhale, Kaggalipura Grama Panchayath, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring 2 Acres and bounded on:- **East by :** Sy.No.140, **West by :** Kharab land, **North by :** Chikkanna's property, **South by :** Chikkanna's property.

Item No.4 : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No.126 situated at Uttari Dakhale, Kaggalipura Grama Panchayath, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring 1 Acre 12 Guntas and bounded on:- **East by :** Rammaiah's property, **West by :** Thopa's property, **North by :** Bettaiah's property, **South by :** Bettaiah's property.

Item No.5 : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No. 74 situated at Uttari Dakhale, Kaggalipura Grama Panchayath, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring 2 Acres and bounded on:- **East by :** Plaintiffs property, **West by :** Moogabyra's property, **North by :** Byra's property, **South by :** Byra's property.

Item No. 6 : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No.71 situated at Uttari Dakhale, Kaggalipura Grama Panchayath, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring 1 Acre and bounded on:- **East by :** Shivaiah's property, **West by :** Reddikere Channel, **North by :** Shivaiah's property, **South by :** Forest.

Item No.7 : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No. 47/3 situated at Uttari Dakhale, Kaggalipura Grama Panchayath, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring 2 Acres 6 Guntas and bounded on:- **East by :** Marigaiah's property, **West by :** Moogabyra's property, **North by :** Plaintiff's property, **South by :** Nanjappa's property.

Item No. 8 : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No. 106 situated at Uttari Dakhale, Kaggalipura Grama Panchayath, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring 35 Guntas and bounded on:- **East by :** Reddikere Tank, **West by :** Govt. Land, **North by :** Reddikere Channel, **South by :** Shanbaugh's property.

Item No.9 : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No. 72 situated at Uttari Dakhale, Kaggalipura Grama Panchayath, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring 25 Guntas and bounded on :- **East by :** Plaintiffs property, **West by :** Mariga's property, **North by :** Plaintiffs property, **South by :** Chennaiah's property.

Item No. 10 : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No. 47/2 situated at Uttari Dakhale, Kaggalipura Grama Panchayath, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring 2 Acres 2 Guntas and bounded on:- **East by :** Chinnaiah's property, **West by :** Mayanna's property, **North by :** Yamanna's property, **South by :** Plaintiffs property.

Item No. 11 : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No. 54/2 situated at Uttari Dakhale, Kaggalipura Grama Panchayath, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring 1 Acre 21 Guntas and bounded on:- **East by :** Narase Gowda's property, **West by :** Sy.No. 71, **North by :** Shivaiah's property, **South by :** Country Road.

Item No. 12 : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No. 54/4 situated at Uttari Dakhale, Kaggalipura Grama Panchayath, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring 2 Acres 4 Guntas and bounded on:- **East by :** Muniyappa's property, **West by :** Shivaiah's property, **North by :** Shivaiah's property, **South by :** Shivaiah's property.

Item No. 13 : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No. 74 situated at Uttari Dakhale, Kaggalipura Grama Panchayath, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring 2 Acres 10 Guntas and bounded on:- **East by :** Reddikere Channel, **West by :** Shivaiah's property, **North by :** Byra's property, **South by :** Shivaiah's property.

Item No. 14 : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No. 75 situated at Uttari Dakhale, Kaggalipura Grama Panchayath, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring 1 Acre 17 Guntas and bounded on:- **East by :** Shivaiah's property, **West by :** Byra's property, **North by :** Narase Gowda's property, **South by :** Shivaiah's property.

Item No. 15 : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No. 71 situated at Uttari Dakhale, Kaggalipura Grama Panchayath, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring 39 Guntas and bounded on:- **East by :** Reddikere Channel, **West by :** Byranna's property, **North by :** Plaintiffs property, **South by :** Reddikere Channel.

Item No. 16 : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No. 42/3 situated at Uttari Dakhale, Kaggalipura Grama Panchayath, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring 2 Acres 20 Guntas and bounded on:- **East by :** Yaga's property, **West by :** Plaintiffs property, **North by :** Sanjeevaiah's property, **South by :** Nanjappa's property.

Item No. 17 : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No. 47/3 situated at Uttari Dakhale, Kaggalipura Grama Panchayath, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring 2 Acres 6 Guntas and bounded on:- **East by :** Marigaiah's property, **West by :** Moogabyra's property, **North by :** Plaintiffs property, **South by :** Nanjappa's property.

You are the Proposed Defendant No's. 6(a), 6(b)(i), 6(c)(ii), 6(e), & 9 in the above suit, are hereby Summoned/Noticed/directed to appear before the this hon'ble Court, PRINCIPAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT, BENGALURU, either in person or by Pleader duly instructed to appear on your behalf to defend you and the said suit is posted **on 2.4.2026 at 11.00 a.m.**

Take suit summons / notice that in default of your appearance on the said day of hearing the above suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court on this the 7th day March 2026 at Bengaluru.

By order of the Court, CHIEF MINISTERIAL OFFICER, Senior Civil Judge Court, Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru.

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFFS
Sri G.R. ANANTHARAM, Advocate
No.87(Old), New No. 13, 5th Main, N.R. Colony, BANGALORE-560 019. Ph: 080 26602375

Government of Karnataka
Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION BIDAR
bdr_eemi @yahoo.com eemibidar@gmail.com Phone/Fax: 08482 232080

No EE/MI&GWD/BDR/TS-1&2/Tender/2025-26/ 532 Date: 06-03-2026

KPP -Procurement Tender Details Call-3

1) Name of Works : As mentioned in KPP-Portal, 2) Estimate cost of Work :As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 3) Eligibility of Contractor : As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 4) Amount put to tender : As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 5) Cost of tender form & Details of EMD :As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 6) Last date & time for tender queries/ clarifications KW-3 & KW-4 Only: **17-03-2026 Up to 17-00 Hours,** 7) Pre-Bid meeting Place, date & time KW-3 & KW-4 Only: Office of the, Ex.Engr. MI & GWD Divn. Partapnagar, Naubad, Bidar on **12-03-2026 at 11:00 AM,** 8) Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders KW-3 & KW-4 Only: **24-03-2026 Up to 16.00 Hours,** 9) Date & time for opening Technical bid KW-3 & KW-4 Only: **27-03-2026 @ 11.00 Hours if possible,** 10) Date & time for opening financial bid KW-3 & KW-4 Only **: 30-03-2026 @ 11.00 Hours if possible,** 11) For any clarification and details , office to be contacted : Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division Bidar Phone/ Fax : 08482 232080, 12) Website details : KPP portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer
MI & GWD Division, Bidar

DIPR/Bidar/357/KSMC&A/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED
ANGADI DIVISION
9th Floor, Sigapi Aachi Building, 18/3, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008. www.elcot.tn.gov.in | +91 44 2855 6120 | tenders@elcotangadi.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender No. E-ANGADI-ST-HO12-2026-0004

ELCOT Angadi Division invites tender for **"Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of Microwave connectivity for Police Department".** For complete details, please visit **www.tntenders.gov.in.** Pre-bid meeting: **25.03.2026, 11 AM.** Last date for submission of e-bids: **27.04.2026, 11 AM.** For queries: **tenders@elcotangadi.in**

DIPR/1674/Tender/2026 **GENERAL MANAGER (PROCUREMENT)**

Odisha Police
Office of the D.G & I.G. of Police, Odisha, Cuttack
Tel. : 0671-2304001, Website :www.odishapolice.gov.in , Email : aig-prov.odpol@od.gov.in

RFP No. 43-RFP- CCTV - 2025-2026 Date : 07.03.2026

Online Bids through e-Tender Portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** are invited from the eligible bidders for Supply and Installation of CC TV systems for Odisha Police, Odisha, Cuttack, during the current financial year 2025-26 as per the schedule mentioned below.

Sl.No.	Name of Item	Approximate quantity
1.	43-RFP- CCTV -2025-2026	2 Sets

Events	Date
RFP Issue Date	07.03.2026
RFP Submission Due Date and time	16.03.2026
Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids	17.03.2026
Bid to RA enabled	Yes
Tender Document fee **{(Non-refundable Rs.590/-{Rs.500/-+ 18% GST (Rs. 90/-)}**	In favour of A.I.G. of Police (Prov.), Odisha, Cuttack payable at Cuttack. (Demand Draft)
EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) **Rs: 52,000/- (Fifty two thousand only)**	In favour of A.I.G. of Police (Prov.), Odisha, Cuttack payable at Cuttack. (Demand Draft)

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites : https://tendersodisha.gov.in . The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

A.I.G. of Police (Provisioning), Odisha, Cuttack.
(Tender Calling Authority)

12001/46/2526 OIPR-12001/12029/1/25-26/0008

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-93/3818/2025-26 **Date: 09.03.2026**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tenders under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the work of :

Name of the Work : Resurfacing of asphalt road at Road No.2 and other maintenance works at Badanaguppe-Kellamballi Industrial Area, Chamarajanagar Taluk, Chamarajanagar District. (Reserved for SC Category).

The last date and time of receipt of tender is :**25.03.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/6117/Zen/2025-26

Bitter milk

Detecting violation of rules in time is better than stringent penalties

The events in Rajamahendravaram in Andhra Pradesh involving the mass poisoning of consumers by milk contaminated with ethylene glycol sound a regulatory alarm. As of March 8, the death toll was 11, with approximately 20 other people, including infants, hospitalised. The police have invoked Sections 103 (punishment for murder) and 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the BNS. The vendor allegedly continued to supply the milk despite complaints about a bitter taste and being warned that a coolant leak could be poisonous, so it seems reasonable that the State is treating gross negligence in food safety as a serious criminal offence. However, there could also be counterproductive effects. Milk is a staple in Indian households and contamination by an industrial compound already infamous in India for its lethality carries the potential to trigger a crisis of confidence in local, unbranded milk supplies. Children and the elderly are most affected by ethylene glycol poisoning due to their higher metabolic sensitivity and lower renal reserves, respectively. This could push people towards pasteurised milk from regulated cooperatives such as Amul or Vijaya, which seems desirable, but a large share of milk is also distributed in India through small vendors. Since the State has invoked criminal charges, including 'murder', against the offenders, marginal actors may quit the market or shift further into informality, which can paradoxically undermine oversight.

Though the State may be projecting a strong hand at work by criminalising the vendor's alleged conduct, the importance of regulations cannot be overstated. Food-safety compliance is as much about punishing bad actors as about reducing the cost of doing the right thing. In the informal supply chain, cold-chain monitoring and hygiene inspections are almost entirely absent, leaving room for contamination. Subsidised testing kits and cooperative chilling facilities can thus reduce the risk at small dairies. Regulators may also consider safe-harbour provisions that ease penalties for dairy operators who report contamination at their facilities; this could also encourage early disclosure, giving authorities time to save lives. But this also makes consistent enforcement crucial. That a dairy could operate without a safety licence for 11 years raises serious questions about the oversight of the local government and the FSSAI: the local authorities failed to conduct periodic field audits, and the FSSAI did not enforce standardised safety protocols. The risk of being detected becomes negligible and even the harshest criminal charges cannot amount to a meaningful preventive measure. An effective system must realise that reliably detecting violations and imposing timely sanctions are a better deterrent than stringent penalties that do not aid enforcement and rarely lead to convictions.

Broad base

India revealed depth in batting and fielding in cricket's shortest format

India lived up to its billing of being the number one side in Twenty20 Internationals (T20I). The Men in Blue retained the ICC T20 World Cup with an emphatic 96-run triumph over New Zealand in the final at Ahmedabad on Sunday. Often in global sporting tournaments, the more fancied athlete or squad may fail at times as the law of averages catches up; it is to the credit of Suryakumar Yadav's men that they remained consistent and lasted the distance. Having won the title in 2024 under the leadership of Rohit Sharma, this Indian unit has evolved further. There has been a change in personnel too, as Rohit, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja retired from cricket's shortest format. Their massive shoes were filled, and with coach Gautam Gambhir propagating a high-risk, high-yield philosophy, the players followed their mentor's approach and prospered. Including the summit clash, India went past 250 thrice in the championship. The think-tank was also flexible as an initial top-order vulnerability was addressed in time. With three left-handers atop the batting tree, the Indians found rival captains employing off-spinners to counter the batters. Abhishek Sharma losing form also proved to be a complication but by picking the right-handed Sanju Samson as opener, balance was found.

Great teams find ways to cope with challenges, and India, even after losing a Super Eight game to South Africa, stayed afloat. The management persisted with Abhishek and he scored two fifties in the campaign, with the one in the final being vital. Samson, though, was a revelation. Always rated high, at varying points in his career he was competing with M.S. Dhoni, Dinesh Karthik and Rishabh Pant for the wicket-keeper batter role. With 321 runs in this championship and three consecutive 50-plus scores in the last stretch for India, the 'Player of the Tournament' ensured that the host fulfilled expectations. If Samson led India's batting charts, the incisive Jasprit Bumrah and spinner Varun Chakaravarthy finished with 14 wickets apiece and held the top spot in this World Cup. Bumrah was terrific while Varun found it rough towards the business end of the campaign as batters turned aggressive against him. India found heroes at critical points, be it Ishan Kishan, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube or Axar Patel. Among the rest, New Zealand proved why it remains one of the most resilient teams, sailing into another final before running into India. That outfits such as Nepal had their moments is also a pointer to how T20Is are helping cricket broaden its base.

Perspectives on the West Asian conflict, on the Editorial and Opinion pages

The Iran war intensifies India's strategic challenge

The Iran war is not a war to eliminate the "imminent threat" to the United States. Neither is it a pre-emptive strike to stop Iran from striking Israel or American assets. Nor is it a war to stop the rebuilding of Iran's nuclear programme. It is not even a war to destroy Iranian ballistic missiles.

T.S. Tirumurti

was Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, New York, and is currently Chair, Steering Committee, Deccan Centre for International Relations, Chennai

Eliminating an ideology

It is a war to destroy the ideology which drives the Iranian government. And as Israel and the U.S. claim, regime change is the path to achieve it. The U.S. has joined Israel to actively prosecute the war by owning this idea.

Iran is seen as the great disrupter of West Asia. Israel wants to end Iran's proxy war which it sees as an existential threat. This means asphyxiating Iranian support to non-state actors in the region that are inimical to Israel. This again means eliminating the ideology (as opposed to the religion) – effectively a regime change.

Iran has consistently nurtured and used non-state actors to wage a proxy war against Israel. In fact, some non-state actors have quite literally become a state within a state and destabilised them. The Iranian-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon occupies parts of Lebanon and has even held up the formation of governments. The Iranian-backed Houthis in Yemen have carved out a large chunk of Yemen. Houthi missiles hit Saudi Aramco installations in 2021 serving as a catalyst for Saudi Arabia and Iran to restore diplomatic relations in 2023. Iraqi Shia non-state militia are also supported by Iran.

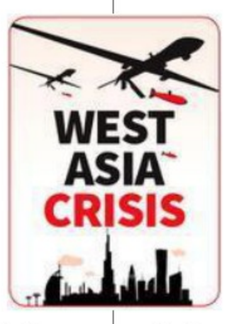
It was Iran's support for Hamas' brutal attacks of October 7, 2023, which exposed Iran's proxies to fierce Israeli retaliation and eventual degradation. Ironically, Hamas itself was initially propped up by Israel (later by Qatar) to weaken Yasser Arafat and the Palestine Liberation Organization, split the Palestinians and discredit the Palestinian Authority. When this writer lived in Gaza, the co-founder and spiritual guru of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, was released in 1997 and sent to Gaza by Israel precisely for this.

Iran's ideology of exporting instability unnerved the region, especially the Gulf monarchies where public opinion is controlled. Consequently, under American prodding, the Gulf states began signing the Abraham Accords to normalise relations with Israel to stabilise the region at the cost of even the Palestinian issue.

If Israel and the U.S. are going after Iran again, when their June 2025 bombing campaign effectively buried the Iranian nuclear enrichment process, then it can only be for a much bigger goal - elimination of Iranian radical ideology and regime change. The attacks on Iran have caused unprecedented devastation on military and security apparatus as well as oil and other infrastructure, hoping to break the cohesion of governance structure and provoke the people to overthrow the government. U.S. President Donald Trump even promised to Make Iran Great Again. Can regime change be effected by mere air bombings on military and civilian targets? This has not happened so far and Israelis and Americans are reluctant to put boots on the ground.

The Iranians, having borne the brunt of the June 2025 war, are prepared for the worst. Since Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei never tried to hide and, in fact, welcomed martyrdom, it did not require special intelligence information to kill him. Anticipating such assassinations, Iran has decentralised authority across multiple arms of government and decided that the period of strategic restraint, as in 2025, is over. Facing an asymmetry in firepower, Iran has widened the war to include regional targets beyond U.S. bases in the Gulf, making this conflict as much political as it is military. It has exposed the U.S. security umbrella over the Gulf states, shown the Gulf states as vulnerable and put the energy security of many countries at serious risk. The pressure is clearly on the U.S. to end the war early.

Israel's view of the endgame differs from that of the U.S.: Israel has no compunctions about pursuing a purely military campaign regardless of the internal, regional, or political fallout, whereas America cannot afford to leave behind an Iran in turmoil without a political settlement for the region. This raises the hope that the Iran campaign will be shorter.



America's mixed messaging

Mr. Trump dislikes getting bogged down in long conflicts. He stabilised the situation in Venezuela by working with the same but more pliable regime, after abducting its President, and in Syria by sanctifying a former ISIS terrorist leader as President. He is eyeing a quick regime change in Cuba now. Last year, he reached a deal with the Houthis to prevent attacks on American ships. With Iran threatening to attack ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz, Mr. Trump is discovering that West Asia is not Latin America, and Iran is not Venezuela. The war is not ending as quickly as Mr. Trump would like. Hence, the mixed messaging from the U.S. – whether to stop and declare victory or to prolong the conflict, risking global economic disruption, regional and American casualties, and political resistance both in Congress and among the public. The U.S. has just requested India to buy more Russian oil to stabilise prices.

The Americans getting bogged down in West Asia can only gladden China and Russia since the U.S. will have less bandwidth to focus on them. With each day of relentless attacks, China's case for taking over Taiwan grows stronger, while Russia's logic in the Ukraine war is reinforced. Rising oil prices are good for Russia but not China. But a distracted U.S. is not good news for India, which is hoping to attract greater U.S. attention after the trade deal and find a place in the world view of Mr. Trump.

India and regional policy

India's role as an observer at Mr. Trump's first Board of Peace meeting in Washington DC., indicated a welcome willingness to take a more proactive role in the region. While India immediately reached out to meet the needs of the Indian community in the Gulf, it slipped back to default mode when Khamenei was assassinated and when an Iranian navy vessel leaving Indian shores was torpedoed by a U.S. submarine in the high seas. Yes, India has excellent bilateral relations with the Gulf, Israel and many regional countries. But with India's stakes in the region, including in Iran, a more balanced regional policy is essential, at the very least to manage contradictions between friends, such as the recent schism between Saudi Arabia and the Emiratis. Regional policy is much more than an aggregation of many bilateral relations, whether in tackling West Asia, Europe, Central Asia or South-East Asia.

The Iran war is the American way of attempting to reorder West Asia, though it has only exposed the inability of the U.S. to protect the Gulf states. Mr. Trump has reordered the transatlantic alliance amicably when the Europeans caved in to everything that he asked. The U.S. attempt to reorder its relations with Russia met with Russian President Putin's resistance. The world will soon witness a reordering of U.S.-China relations when Mr. Trump and Xi Jinping meet soon – an event being watched anxiously by Japan, South Korea, India, and, of course, Taiwan, to see whether Mr. Trump will end up making not MAGA, but MCGA: Make China Great Again.

The strategic and security architecture of the region will now have to be rewritten. Ironically, Iran has effectively pushed the region even deeper into America's arms. Whether China or Russia can offer counter-security arrangements is debatable. Israel will continue to be a predominant force in the region. But others will also benefit such as Türkiye, Saudi Arabia and even Pakistan. With a strong Iran out of the way, their ambitions and stock will rise to fill the regional space.

This is not good news for India. With its strategic space constricted by both the U.S. and China, the Iran war is having a much greater impact on India than it anticipated. India's neighbourhood has just become that much tougher to negotiate.

The ongoing war will have a much greater impact on India than it had anticipated, forcing New Delhi to navigate complex regional dynamics

The lesson is national security cannot be outsourced

It is the second week of war since strikes by the United States and Israel on Iran began on February 28 citing 'existential' and 'imminent' threats. A joint offensive by two of the world's most lethal and technologically advanced militaries was expected to crush Iran quickly – but Iran has struck back hard, hitting targets once thought safe or 'untouchable'.

Why has Iran targeted them? How does it change the nature of war? These targets are the various American military bases and assets spread over the Gulf region in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Bahrain, Jordan, Iraq, Syria and Oman. These attacks, combined with strikes on critical energy infrastructure, such as oil depots, oil fields, gas fields and perhaps most crucially, the closure of the Strait of Hormuz – have thrown the entire region into panic. Tough questions are being asked, especially on the security guarantees that America has been promising the region for over decades. There is a sense of disbelief and helplessness in the region witnessing the bubble of externally sponsored security blow away in no time. Many are questioning the logic of it all while others are already looking at alternate security options for the future.

Rajeev Agarwal

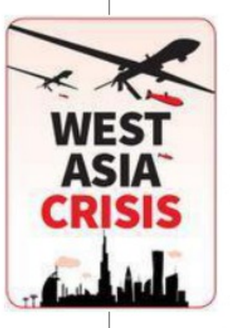
is a West Asia expert, a Senior Research Consultant at the Chintan Research Foundation, Delhi, and a retired colonel

The Gulf security arrangement

As the war continues, there are reports that the missile interceptors in the Gulf countries have run out with the U.S. unable to replenish them, prioritising the limited availability of these critical defensive systems for Israel. Why are the Gulf countries so helpless in defending themselves? The answer lies in a security arrangement worked out in the region, through America, almost 45 years ago.

After the Iranian Revolution in 1979-80, the region's monarchies felt threatened and the U.S. promised to defend Gulf stability against external threats. In his 1980 State of the Union Address, in reaction to the 1979 Iranian revolution, U.S. President Jimmy Carter had assured the region, and warned that any outside attempt to control the Persian Gulf would be regarded as an assault on vital interests of the U.S., and that such an assault would be repelled by any means necessary, including military force.

There were several more initiatives later. At the U.S.-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit in Riyadh in May 2017, a proposed regional alliance in the form of an 'Arab NATO' or the Middle East Strategic Alliance (MESA) was mooted, including the GCC nations, and Egypt, and Jordan. It failed to take off due to the diplomatic blockade on Qatar in June 2017. And, after the Israeli missile strike on Doha, Qatar, targeting the Hamas leadership in September 2025, the U.S. had assured iron-clad security guarantees to Qatar akin to Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Charter.



However, all past U.S. efforts and assurances have come to nothing. The U.S. has failed to protect the Gulf countries, and the ongoing conflict demonstrates that its security guarantees are illusory, ineffective and unreliable. The Gulf states can no longer count on American assurances for their future safety.

What India can learn

There are crucial lessons. For decades, India has been one of the top importers of arms. The turning point came with the Kargil War in 1999, which exposed both critical shortages and vulnerabilities arising from import dependencies. One of key recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee was achieving self-reliance in military equipment.

However, it was only after 2014, that 'Atma Nirbharta' or self-reliance actually took shape. Over the past decade, the import percentages have gone down and indigenous productions have taken off with private players being encouraged and even incentivised. In FY 2024-25, Indian exports touched a record ₹23,622 crore (approximately $2.78 billion) while import percentages came down to 25%-30%. Major weapon platforms such as the BrahMos missile, Tejas fighter aircraft, artillery guns, and ammunition are in demand internationally, while several foreign-origin systems are now being manufactured in India.

Looking ahead

The war in Iran has many bitter lessons for the region and the world. Reports suggest that Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar are not only considering reducing their investment commitments in the U.S. but are also exploring options to remove American military bases from their soil. If this happens, it will be the most transformative change in the regional security architecture since its inception almost 50 years ago. How this will unfold and what the future Gulf security architecture will look like remains to be seen. One thing is clear. A lesson from this war is that national security cannot be bought or outsourced.

The ongoing conflict exposes America's security promises as illusory and unreliable

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

President's visit, function

It is most unfortunate that the Prime Minister, in what are obviously election speeches, has harped on the alleged lack of proper arrangements by the West Bengal government for the International Santal Conference, following President Droupadi Murmu's expression of disappointment (Front page, "Centre seeks report from Bengal on President's visit", March 9). This raises the question of whether the West Bengal Chief Minister and the government had sufficient advance notice of the President's visit. At the same time, given the sudden changes involving Governors in certain States, one may ask whether there has been a breach of protocol when it came to informing or consulting the Chief Ministers about these changes. In a rapidly eroding federal structure, such instances highlight the growing fissures between the Centre and the States.

Hemachandra Basappa,
Bengaluru

The defence by the West Bengal government seems odd. Given the significance of the President's office, such developments merit careful reflection and a clarification of the circumstances surrounding the arrangements.

K.R. Jayaprakash Rao,
Mysuru

LPG pricing

The hike in LPG prices is painful for ordinary households, but the wider picture cannot be ignored. West Asia tensions have disrupted supply chains, and India depends on imports for most of its LPG needs. The price revision, though unwelcome, appears modest relative to the scale of global disruption. Crucially, domestic supply remains stable and uninterrupted.

A. Myilsami,
Coimbatore

Corrections & Clarifications

In a report, "₹1,085-cr. loan fraud: CBI lodges fresh case against RCom, Anil" (Inside pages, March 8, 2026), the reference to the year April 2023, in the second paragraph, should have been April 2013.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28576347/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

At Ahmedabad

India's resounding triumph in the T20 World Cup is more than a sporting victory. It is a reminder of what collective discipline, quiet confidence and fearless talent can achieve. Victories like this also underline the depth of India's cricketing ecosystem.

K. Chidanand Kumar,
Bengaluru

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

How the war in Iran threatens to spill over

Priyanjali Malik
writes on nuclear politics and security

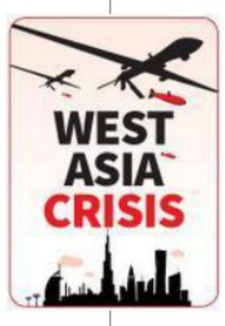
Iran's clerical regime has been brutal. Yet, whatever the reasons for the joint Israel and U.S. attack on Iran – and several reasons have been proffered by Washington – the strikes on Iran are not about helping the Iranian people overthrow a repressive regime; they are not about fighting for women's rights; and they are probably not even about Iran's nuclear programme. There has been no clarity about why the U.S. allowed Israel to push it into a war with Iran. For its part, Iran has responded with a fury that was not anticipated, widening the arc of its response to engulf the whole region. That region extends to India's borders; and so this regional war is now New Delhi's problem as well.

Announcing "major combat operations in Iran", U.S. President Donald Trump turned to the "great proud people of Iran" and said, "[w]hen we are finished, take over your government." A week later, it is clear that when Israel and the U.S. are done with targeting the regime, there will not be much of Iran left.

Lessons from history

History demonstrates that democracy, human rights and the rule of law have not yet been introduced into a region by the business end of a cruise missile. There is little reason to believe that Iran will prove to be the first. Afghanistan and Iraq are testimony to the fallacy of believing that nation-building can be tagged on to other goals. In Afghanistan, the invasion by the U.S.-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was provided legal cover through strongly worded UN Security Council Resolutions (1368 and 1373) that condemned the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The invasion was presented as self-defence, and for rooting out al-Qaeda from Afghanistan and overthrowing the Taliban regime. The decisions that subsequently committed ISAF to nation-building in that rubble represented a classic case of mission-creep: democracy and women's rights were added on as desirable extras, not as the focus of the original intervention. Unsurprisingly, when the Americans and the British pulled out 20 years later, the Taliban were able to renew their deeply fundamentalist and patriarchal hold on society. This is not nation-building, it is betrayal.

Arguably more Iraqis were killed in the operation to save Iraq from Saddam Hussein than the ones he murdered during his brutal reign. A precarious stability prevails in Iraq, one that might not withstand regional upheaval, thereby belying claims of nation-building that were put forward to justify the 2003 invasion of Iraq after no weapons of mass destruction were found. Iraq is part of an arc of instability that spreads from Sudan through Lebanon to Syria and Afghanistan. The other states in the region achieve stability through iron-fisted control.



U.S.-Israel interests

President Trump betrayed young Iranians rising up against a brutal regime by urging them to continue protesting for "help is on its way." They took bullets for their bravery, and no help came. Now the U.S. and Israel are pounding Iran with huge munitions, including 2,000lb penetrator bombs, for a kaleidoscope of shifting war aims including regime change. However, Mr. Trump also declared on March 5 that he wanted to choose the next leader, perhaps from the regime. The reversal is breath-taking: expediency now dictates that Mr. Trump consider keeping the very regime in power whose brutality he had used as an excuse to bomb Iran.

The U.S. and Israel say their aerial bombardment of Iran (and Lebanon) will increase. President Trump had earlier declared that every trace of the regime would be removed, along with Iran's nuclear programme (strangely resurrected after Mr. Trump's June 2025 claims to have 'obliterated' it), ballistic missile capability and its navy. Israel's war aims are slightly different: despite Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's calls for regime change, it is apparent that his preferred outcome is a mortally weakened Iran that need not function as a state. Israel is more than capable of suppressing sub-state actors that cannot fall back on a strong regime. Tel Aviv has done nothing to help achieve stability in Syria, and its treatment of Gaza tells its own story.

Iran's stance

The Iranian regime appears to have calculated that if it must go down, it will do so fighting, widening the conflict and drawing in neighbours who harbour U.S. bases. In doing so, they are hacking at the faultline between Shia Iran and the Sunni Gulf States, turning this conflict into another chapter of the fight for the soul of Islam. This should worry South Asia, because the tinderbox for Sunni-Shia tensions is Pakistan, which is already distracted by rapidly escalating clashes with Afghanistan. A Pakistan plagued by instability at two borders, including a secessionist movement in Balochistan, is not in India's interests. There should be no illusions about instability's propensity to spread.

The stakes are high for India: nine million Indians reside in the Gulf states, their remittances accounting for almost 1.2% of GDP. The conflict is also imperilling energy supplies. While this is not a conflict of India's making or choosing, it has a stake in this being settled in a manner that leaves a stable Iran. The question now is whether that stability can be achieved in line with the aspirations of the Iranian people.

History demonstrates that democracy, human rights and the rule of law have not yet been introduced into a region by the business end of a cruise missile

A gradual fiscal correction

The 2026-27 Budget shows debt moderation while scaling up capital investment

STATE OF PLAY

G.V.R. Subba Rao
subbarao.gavaravarapu@thehindu.co.in

The fiscal trajectory of Andhra Pradesh between 2023-24 and 2026-27 reflects a government navigating a delicate inflection point, balancing political commitments with the imperatives of economic realism. The latest Budget cycle signals a perceptible shift from rhetoric-heavy articulation to execution-oriented capital formation. Yet beneath the language of consolidation and growth lies a layered fiscal reality that warrants deeper scrutiny.

A closer look

At the outset, the numbers appear reassuring. The revenue deficit is projected to decline from 1.82% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in 2025-26 (BE) to 1.11% in 2026-27 (BE). The fiscal deficit ratio is also moderating after earlier expansionary pressures. Capital expenditure has risen sharply – from ₹40,635.72 crore in 2025-26 to ₹48,697.71 crore in 2026-27 – an increase of nearly ₹8,000 crore in a single year. More importantly, capital outlay as a share of total expenditure has also increased. This shift matters. A pivot towards capital formation can crowd in private investment, generate employment, and strengthen medium-term growth potential. The expansion of infrastructure in ports, industrial corridors, logistics networks, airports, and renewable energy can reposition the State within emerging supply chains. Complementary initiatives, such as digital governance reforms and innovation ecosystems, signal an ambition to align with a digital-industrial growth model.

However, fiscal discipline cannot be judged by headline numbers alone. A more revealing indicator is the primary deficit, which excludes interest payments and shows whether fresh borrowing is financing asset creation or also underwriting ongoing expenditure. Andhra Pradesh continues to operate under a primary deficit. The State is still borrowing not only to service past debt but also to meet part of its current expenditure commitments. The trajectory from 2023-24 to 2026-27 suggests improvement, yet consolidation remains gradual and incomplete. Debt sustainability, therefore, becomes central to the assessment. Even if the debt-to-GSDP ratio stabilises in the mid-30% range, the absolute debt stock continues to expand. Interest payments remain a significant component of revenue expenditure, compressing fiscal space. The fundamental question is whether borrowed funds can generate economic returns that exceed their servicing costs over time. Without such gains, capital spending risks becoming a fiscal burden rather than a growth catalyst.

Revenue mobilisation is another critical pivot. For 2026-27, the State Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) is projected at ₹1,25,846 crore, with tax receipts accounting for roughly 38% of the total revenue. This suggests a strengthening reliance on internal resource mobilisation rather than debt. Yet revenue projections are inherently sensitive to macroeconomic assumptions. Andhra Pradesh's economy remains exposed to agricultural variability, consumption cycles, and national growth trends. A weaker monsoon, subdued private investment, or external shocks could dampen GSDP growth. Equally critical is the structure of committed expenditure. Salaries, pensions, welfare schemes, and interest payments constitute structural obligations that are difficult to compress in the short term. While welfare commitments serve social and political objectives, they also lock in recurring fiscal liabilities.

A gradual approach

The State's balancing strategy appears gradualist: retaining welfare credibility while scaling up capital investment.

The transition from the 2025-26 Budget to the 2026-27 Budget Estimate marks a tonal shift. The earlier cycle functioned as a reset year within a longer development framework, combining welfare continuity with industrial and MSME policy announcements. It was foundational in character – establishing direction and signalling intent. By 2026-27, however, the emphasis has shifted from proclamation to execution. Capital intensity has increased, borrowing composition shows greater restraint, and deficit metrics reflect moderation.

Yet intent must translate into institutional capacity. The quality of capital expenditure will ultimately determine fiscal sustainability. Not all capital spending is inherently productive. Projects must be economically viable, efficiently managed, and aligned with the broader growth strategy.

Why algorithmic sovereignty should be India's top priority

The AI systems of today, trained on Western datasets and models, draw heavily from Western legal scholarship when it comes to geopolitical issues

Ashok K. Kantha

A day after a U.S. submarine sank the Iranian frigate IRIS Dena inside Sri Lanka's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), I posed a straightforward question to an advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) system: "Was the sinking legal under international law?" The reply was instant: "It was not illegal." No qualification, no reference to the deeply contested nature of military activities in an EEZ, and no mention that India and most Global South nations interpret the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) very differently from the U.S. and its allies.

When the response was challenged – pointing out India's long-standing position that Article 58 of the UNCLOS requires coastal-state consent for foreign military activities in an EEZ, and that similar views are held by China, Indonesia, Brazil, South Africa, Iran, and many others – the AI conceded. It acknowledged that its initial answer had drawn heavily from Western naval doctrine and Western legal scholarship. The machine, in other words, spoke with the accent of its Western training data. This is not a minor technical glitch. It is a foundational bias with serious geopolitical implications.

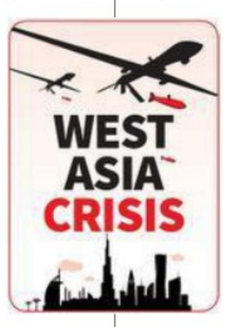
Not a neutral arbiter

Article 58 of the UNCLOS grants foreign states freedom of navigation, overflight, and "other internationally lawful uses of the sea related to these freedoms" in an EEZ. Two sharply divergent interpretations of this Article have emerged. The U.S.-led Western view treats these freedoms expansively, encompassing intelligence collection, submarine operations, military exercises, weapons testing, and even combat actions – provided they occur beyond territorial seas. India and much of the Global South read the provision more restrictively: the listed freedoms must be genuinely related to navigation and overflight, while the obligation under Article 58(3) to show "due regard" for the coastal state's rights carries real weight. From this perspective, most military activities in an EEZ require prior consent.

Since the treaty text is silent on many specifics, the prevailing interpretation will therefore depend less on legal exegesis than on power, persuasion, and the dominant discursive frameworks – which are increasingly shaped by AI systems.

A parallel humanitarian issue was also absent from the AI's initial reply to my query: the duty to rescue under Article 18 of the Second Geneva Convention. The provision requires parties to take "all possible measures" to search for and collect shipwrecked persons "without delay." Reports indicate that the attacking submarine departed the scene quickly, leaving rescue operations to the Sri Lankan Navy, which received a distress call from the stricken warship. At least 87 sailors died; 32 were saved. The only recognised exception to this duty is operational infeasibility, but no public evidence has established that rescue was infeasible here. The AI system did not even consider this aspect until it was confronted. Politely, it acknowledged its mistake.

International rescue mission: Sri Lankan Navy personnel evacuate Iranian sailors from the IRIS Dena frigate in Galle, Sri Lanka on March 4. AFP



This exchange with the model exposes a deeper reality: contemporary AI is not a neutral arbiter of international law. It mirrors the data on which it was trained, which is disproportionately Western in authorship, perspective, and institutional origin. The bias is arguably not intentional, it is structural. Yet, Western readings become the "default" answer, while Global South positions are relegated to "alternative" status or made invisible. Thus, power asymmetries are quietly encoded into machine outputs. When an AI declares – with no apparent doubt – that the sinking of IRIS Dena was "not illegal," it is reproducing a worldview that privileges the strategic preferences of a small group of powerful states over the legal stances adopted by a majority of countries.

The IRIS Dena incident is a reminder that the Indian Ocean is no longer insulated from extra-regional conflict and that U.S. preoccupations in the neighbourhood are out of sync with India's priorities. But it is also a reminder that the architecture of interpretation – the systems that tell us what counts as law, humanitarian failure, or acceptable conduct– will increasingly be algorithmic. This matters because policymakers and analysts today routinely turn to AI tools. When those tools systematically favour one interpretive tradition, that interpretation gains outsized influence. The consequence goes beyond academics; it is geopolitical.

A wake-up call for India

The global AI landscape is moving toward bipolarity, dominated by U.S. and Chinese architectures reflecting their respective data models and assumptions. There are well-grounded reservations about opting for the 'China AI stack'. The debate now centres on whether to adopt the 'U.S. AI stack', or to pursue a 'sovereign Indian stack'.

The pitch for the U.S. stack is seductive – chips, clouds, models, and platforms that it offers to 'trusted partners' as the fastest route to AI capability. But beneath the language of partnership lies a familiar asymmetry. If the core infrastructure, computing power, and frontier models remain controlled elsewhere, sovereignty becomes a matter of permission. Besides, there is also the expectation that India's AI ecosystem will be 'China-free', though the U.S. is willing to co-mingle with China in AI locations in the Gulf.

Pragmatists, who consider catching up with global AI systems as the first priority, argue that India cannot realistically out-train Silicon Valley on frontier models. The real economic payoff, they say, lies in closing the deployment gap: embedding world-class foreign engines into India's unique workflows in healthcare, agriculture, education, and governance. The emphasis would be on building the applications, and not expending resources on engines.

AI advocates who prioritise sovereignty, however, counter that exclusive reliance on foreign foundational models carry unacceptable strategic risks. U.S. models are trained predominantly on Western data and carry linguistic, cultural, and strategic biases ill-suited to India's diverse realities. More fundamentally, dependence on externally controlled compute, models, and data pipelines risks digital colonialism: foreign algorithms would govern data flows, set innovation boundaries, and mediate knowledge production.

The path forward

India cannot afford to remain a passive consumer of intelligence or a vendor of applications produced by AI architecture elsewhere. It must become a producer of models, datasets, and interpretive frameworks. Our scale, linguistic diversity, democratic complexity, and geopolitical position demand more than adaptation or applications; they demand ownership of the algorithmic layer that will shape future cognition. This means strategic choice, not autarky: the ability to integrate with global ecosystems without structural dependence. It requires sustained investment in domestic compute, indigenous training data and tools, secure data infrastructure, and models that treat Indian languages and lived realities as first-order inputs rather than afterthoughts. If not, India outsources not just computation but cognition itself.

AI today represents a civilisational contest. Nations that fail to develop their own models will eventually think through someone else's, and nations that do not build their own data architectures will find their narratives increasingly shaped by external entities.

India stands at a decisive moment. We can remain privileged tenants in someone else's digital empire, or we can fashion a plural AI future. Just as India built its own space programme, nuclear programme, and digital public infrastructure, it must now build its own sovereign AI stack.

Ashok K. Kantha is a former Ambassador of India to China, and the Subhas Chandra Bose Chair Professor of International Relations at Chanakya University Bengaluru

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 10, 1976

Train delay gives time to rice smugglers to escape

Madras, March 9: A raid against grain smuggling and ticketless travel, organised by the Southern Railway, to-day resulted in the seizure of about a 100 bags of rice. The catch should have been much bigger but for a fortuitous circumstance.

And if the elaborately planned campaign did not exactly end in a whimper much of the credit should go to two Railway Protection Force dogs.

The raid was organised at a point between Vandalur and Tambaram. The efforts of the authorities to maintain secrecy came to nought when the Rameswaram Passenger was delayed en route by a little over an hour due to trouble over operating the points near Mylam.

This was enough time for a few cyclists who had seen the ambush to alert the smugglers at Guduvanchery.

The scene of operation was the track abutting "Oorpakkam" village of Vandalur, chosen for its picturesqueness for the benefit of accompanying television cameramen, and the target for the ambush was the Rameswaram Passenger coming to Madras.

The Southern Railway's Chief Commercial superintendent, Mr. C.V.B. Menon, in charge of the operations, had deputed an assistant Commercial Officer to travel with the driver of the train to ensure that it stopped at the spot. The authorities said, to emphasise the secretive aspect of the ambush, that the driver would have known of it only after the train had moved from a particular station.

To make doubly sure that the train did not overshoot the mark, three detonators, 10 metres apart, and a fourth one 100 metres away, were planted on the track so that they could serve to remind the driver to stop.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 10, 1926

Indians in Fiji

London, March 8: In the Commons, replying to the question whether women will be included in the forthcoming Fiji Educational Commission, Col. Amery mentioned that facilities for education for education of Indian boys and girls did not exist in Fiji. The Commission would investigate the matter generally, being appointed by the Governor of the Colony and an enquiry would be made of him regarding the point raised.

From Page One

Conversations with Iran to continue: Jaishankar

While India has not condemned the killing of Khamenei so far, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri had signed the condolence book at the Iranian Embassy in New Delhi on March 5 as Iran mourned the death of Khamenei who was assassinated along with several top officials and his close family members.

Mr. Jaishankar informed the MPs about the diplomatic-level conversation India has had with the U.S. during this period.

He assured that the Indian missions are "working hard" to help stranded Indian tourists and said commercial flights were operated "whenever there has been a partial opening of airspace".

'Around 67,000 have returned'

"Our estimate is that about 67,000 of our nationals have done so (returned) as a result. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has also put out figures for the last three days. On March 7, there were a total of 51 inbound flights operated by Indian carriers, 49 on March 8 and there were 50 flights planned for March 9," said Mr. Jaishankar, who also informed that Mr. Araghchi has "expressed his country's thanks" to India after Iranian naval vessel *IRIS Lavan* was allowed to dock at Kochi.

"The Iranian side requested permission on February 28 for three ships in the region to dock at our ports. This was accorded on March 1 in Kochi. *IRIS Lavan* actually docked on March 4 in Kochi. The crew is currently in Indian naval facilities," he said, referring to the docking "as the right thing to do". Mr. Jaishankar briefed the MPs about the conversations Prime Minister Narendra Modi and he have had with the leaderships of Gulf states and said, "In each case, we received assurances that the well-being of the Indian community will be the priority for the host government."

The Minister referred to the threat to energy security that is being perceived because of the attacks on energy installations in the region and the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz and said the "government remains committed" to ensuring energy security. "The interests of the Indian consumer has and will always be the overriding priority. Where required, Indian diplomacy has supported the endeavours of our energy enterprises in this volatile situation," he said.

Conflict in West Asia dominates Lok Sabha

Opposition parties of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) are scheduled to meet on Tuesday morning to decide their next course of action.

The government is keen to first take up the debate on the resolution seeking the removal of the Speaker. Home Minister Amit Shah and Mr. Rijiju are likely to speak on the issue, while the Congress plans to field senior members, including Deputy Leader of the party in the Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi, and Manish Tewari.

Mr. Gandhi questioned the government's reluctance to discuss the West Asia crisis before taking up the resolution seeking the Speaker's removal.

"Is the West Asia issue not essential? Are fuel prices and economic devastation not important issues? These are people's issues, and we consider them important and want a discussion. But the government doesn't want to do (a debate) because other things will come out. Questions will be asked about the Prime Minister's position and how he is being blackmailed. That's why they don't want to discuss".

As soon as the Lok Sabha proceedings began, the House witnessed repeated adjournments with Opposition MPs raising slogans. Jagadambika Pal, who was chairing the proceedings, accused them of wasting taxpayers' money–about ₹9 crore per day–by holding the House "hostage".

Mr. Pal described the Opposition's behaviour as "immature and irresponsible" and alleged that it was working with a "political agenda" to disrupt proceedings by preventing the House from taking up the resolution against Mr. Birla. The issue of taking up the West Asia crisis first was discussed at a meeting of senior leaders of the INDIA bloc on Monday morning at Congress president and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge's office in Parliament. Ahead of the start of proceedings, INDIA bloc MPs also protested outside the main entrance to the Parliament.

U.K. flight back to Delhi after 14 hours in the sky

Until now, all of IndiGo's European services had been grounded as the leased Boeing 787 aircraft fall under the jurisdiction of the European Union Aviation Safety Agency, which issued an advisory on February 28 barring its carriers from flying over 11 countries in West Asia following airstrikes between U.S.-Israel and Iran.

The episode underscores the risks of operating long-haul flights while conflict disrupts one of aviation's most critical corridors between Europe and Asia, highlighting the complex operational challenges airlines are navigating amid rapidly shifting airspace restrictions.

For passengers, the disruption can translate into flight cancellations, diversions, or significantly longer travel time, extended waiting at airports and a high degree of uncertainty around departures and arrivals, as airlines are forced to alter routes in response to evolving airspace advisories.

Nadda slams Opposition over walkout from Rajya Sabha

Opposition protests during Jaishankar's statement on situation in West Asia; Congress chief insists House must first hold a full-fledged discussion on the developments and the implications for India

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Minister J.P. Nadda on Monday accused the Opposition of engaging in "petty politics" and creating "anarchy" in Parliament after members of the Congress and other Opposition parties disrupted Rajya Sabha proceedings and later walked out during External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's *suo motu* statement on the situation in West Asia. The Opposition members demanded a full debate on developments in the region.

The Upper House began its sitting with Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan reading out obituary references and laying of papers. He then invited Mr. Jaishankar to speak on the escalating tensions in West Asia.

Kharge objects

Congress president and Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge objected, insisting that the House must first hold a full-fledged discussion on the geopolitical developments and their implications for India.

No yielding: Union Minister J.P. Nadda speaking in the Rajya Sabha during the Budget Session of Parliament on Monday. SANSAD TV

Permitted to speak briefly, Mr. Kharge warned that the conflict in West Asia could severely affect India's economic stability, energy security, and the livelihood of nearly one crore Indians working in the region.

He also flagged recent deaths and reports of missing Indian nationals, and noted that India receives about ₹51 billion annually in remittances from Gulf nations. Mr. Kharge further raised concerns about rising liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) prices and their impact on ordinary citizens. Later in the day, he also wrote a letter to Mr. Radhakrishnan that there should be a Short Duration Discussion on the issue.

When the Chairman asked Mr. Jaishankar to proceed with his statement, Opposition MPs stood up, demanding that Mr. Kharge be allowed to complete his intervention. They raised slogans and pressed for a Short Duration Discussion, insisting that the Minister respond only after it. As Mr. Jaishankar continued, the Opposition staged a collective walkout.

Opposition members urged the Chairman to allow Kharge to complete his speech but it was not done and they staged a collective walkout

Creating chaos: Nadda

After the Minister finished, Mr. Nadda, the Leader of the House, strongly criticised the Opposition's conduct, calling it "irresponsible" and "reprehensible". He alleged that the Opposition had no interest in debate or national issues and only aimed to create "chaos and hooliganism" in Parliament.

He listed past debates, from the special intensive revision to Operation Sindoor and the Union Budget, when the Opposition walked out during government replies.

Mr. Nadda asserted that the Opposition's "petty politics" would not succeed and that the Opposition was diminishing themselves by repeatedly resorting to walkouts.

MPs demand stricter enforcement of laws to tackle air pollution

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

AAP MP Swati Maliwal says Delhi's air pollution is an 'ongoing crime'. SANSAD TV/ANI

High levels of air pollution, particularly in the National Capital Region, dominated a debate on the working of Environment Ministry in the Rajya Sabha on Monday. The Members demanded strict protocols to curb pollution and demanded "conceptual restructuring" of the Ministry to meet the emerging challenges of climate change.

BJP MP Ghanshyam Tiwari, initiating the debate, said the Narendra Modi government had taken several initiatives to curb environmental pollution, intensify forest conservation work, and increase the number of tigers. "Waste is increasing in every sector. We have to tackle this waste through proper management," he said.

Thematic silos

YSR Congress Party's Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla demanded "structural transformation and restructuring" of the Ministry and urged the government to stop operating in thematic silos. BJP's nominated member Ujjwal Nikam said the protection of urban forests was an important issue. The TDP's Masthan Rao Yadav Beedha said air pollution was the most pressing environmental challenge. AIADMK's M. Dhanapal noted rapid urbanisation, industrial emissions, vehicle pollution, construction activities and burning of biomass had significantly contributed to the deterioration of air quality in many cities.

AAP member Swati Maliwal said the Commission for Air Quality Management must be freed from bureaucratic clutches and made autonomous. "Experts should lead it. Equip it with real resources and authority, and allocate a dedicated ₹10,000 crore special fund with a singular, non-negotiable mandate to eliminate air pollution across the Delhi-NCR region," she said.

CBI plea: HC issues notice to Kejriwal, 22 others

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought responses from former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, his then deputy Manish Sisodia, and 21 others on a petition filed by the CBI challenging their discharge by a trial court in the liquor policy case.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma issued notices to all the accused and listed the CBI's petition for hearing on March 16.

The court also stayed the observations made by the trial court against the investigating officer in the case, including its direction recommending departmental action against him.

The High Court further deferred proceedings in a connected money laundering case filed by the Enforcement Directorate.

It requested the trial court hearing the money laundering case to adjourn the matter and "await the outcome of the present case".

Govt. sends feelers to Opposition on women's quota Act implementation

Sobhana K. Nair
Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The government has reached out to several Opposition leaders, seeking their opinion on bringing an amendment to advance the timeline on the implementation of the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, or Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, sources said.

The Act seeks to allocate 33% of the seats to directly elected legislative bodies, including the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, to women.

The legislation, more commonly known as the women's reservation Bill, 2023 was passed by Parliament in a special session, the first one in the new Parliament building, on September 21, 2023. The Lok Sabha passed the Bill with 454 votes in favour and two against. The Rajya Sabha passed the Bill unanimously, with 214 votes in favour and none against.

Section 5 of the Act states that the reservation for women will come into effect "after an exercise of delimitation is undertaken for this purpose after the relevant figures for the first Census taken after commencement of Act..." The Union Cabinet cleared the decks for the Census on December 12, 2025, to be undertaken in two phases – "houselisting and housing census" – between April and September 2026, and population enumeration in February 2027. The timeline for delimitation, which is expected to increase the number of Lok Sabha seats, continues to be ambiguous.

> We will not disclose now as to what the [critical] Bill is, but we will bring up one very important business in the second part [of the Budget Session]
>
> **KIREN RIJIJU**
> Parliamentary Affairs Minister

Sources in the government confirmed to *The Hindu* that "informal feelers" had been sent to several Opposition leaders, seeking their opinion on introducing amendments to the Act, removing the necessity to wait for the completion of the Census, which, in turn, would help in initiating the delimitation exercise.

"We have sent messages informally on this, nothing formal or even suggestions from our side have been shared. If there is a formal movement on this, it will be shared," a senior source in the government said. The source did not clarify on the fate of the delimitation exercise, or whether there were any thoughts on the implementation of the Act before the exercise.

Speaking to reporters at Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on February 15 had stated that the second part of the Budget Session, which began on Monday, would be "interesting" as several "important" legislation, and a "critical" Bill, would be presented in Parliament for debate and passage. "We will bring some important Bills, including one critical Bill. We will not disclose now as to what the Bill is, but we will bring up one very important business in the second part. We will pass all these Bills," Mr. Rijiju had said.

The ambiguity in the timeline of the implementation was the main thrust of the Opposition's criticism during the debate on the law in Parliament. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, also the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, speaking during the debate, had said that there was no need to "link women's reservation with Census and delimitation". He had criticised the government that by placing these two conditions, the Bill could turn out to be a mere "*jumla*".

Manipur BJP unit protests inaction in MLA's death

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The BJP unit from Thanlon in Manipur's Churachandpur district protested against the central BJP and State BJP for failing to ensure justice for party MLA Vungzagin Valte.

Valte, a BJP MLA from the Zomi tribe, who represented Thanlon constituency, passed away on February 21 at a private hospital in Haryana's Gurugram. He never recovered from injuries after he was assaulted by a mob on May 4, 2023, when ethnic violence between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei people erupted in Manipur.

His body is being preserved at the morgue of Churachandpur District Hospital. The family, as well as community leaders, has refused the burial till their demands, which includes a probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), and a political solution, are met.

The Thanlon unit of BJP said in a statement that the family and the community continue to wait for justice in the attack that eventually claimed Valte's life. "Despite the death of a sitting MLA belonging to the ruling party, there has been no visible accountability for those responsible for the assault. Calls for a fair and independent investigation, including demands for a NIA probe, have yet to receive any official written response," the statement said.

Even though the situation remains unresolved, the State government had announced the resumption of the Manipur Legislative Assembly session on March 9, it added.

"For many in Thanlon and across the hill districts, this decision has raised a troubling question: how can the Assembly resume its proceedings while justice for one of its own members remains unresolved and his mortal remains still await closure?" the statement said.

Tension in U.P. locality after religious leader beaten

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Tension prevailed in a locality of Muzaffarnagar district of Uttar Pradesh on Monday after a religious leader was on Sunday attacked by a few youth belonging to another community. Following the incident, residents demanded strict action against the culprits.

"The injured [man] is being treated. We have registered a case following a complaint by the injured man and two youth have been detained; they are juveniles," police said.

If BNS distinguishes between throwing and administering acid, RPwD Act must too: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said if the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) distinguished between "throwing" acid and "administering" the corrosive substance with intention to voluntarily cause grievous hurt to a person, the Right to Persons with Disability (RPwD) Act must also follow suit.

The observation was made by a Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi to the Union government while hearing a petition filed by an acid attack survivor, Shaheen Malik.

Ms. Malik, herself an acid attack survivor, has specifically sought to bring victims who were forcibly made to ingest acid, and with a criminal case registered against their attackers, to be brought under the protective umbrella of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

"When BNS distinguishes between throwing and administering, the aspect of administration requires to be articulated in the RPwD Act also," Justice Bagchi addressed Additional Solicitor-General Archana Pathak Dave, appearing for the Centre.

Chief Justice Kant said statutory provisions should be able to cover not only acts committed, but also be able to foresee offences which in all probability may occur in the future.

'Undue advantage'

"The perpetrators of crime should not be able to take any undue advantage. Even if an offence is capable of being committed, that itself is a sufficient guideline to enact a provision [to counter it]," Chief Justice Kant observed orally.

Ms. Dave said the definitions in the RPwD Act may have to be amended to incorporate or extend the ambit of the statute. She sought more time to return with a comprehensive response.

Section 124 of the BNS covers the offence of "voluntarily causing grievous hurt by use of acid, etc." It provides that "whoever causes permanent or partial damage or deformity to, or burns or maims or disfigures or disables, any part or parts of the body of a person or causes grievous hurt by throwing acid on or by administering acid to that person..."

In an earlier hearing in the case, the top court had voiced zero tolerance for acid attackers, especially criminals who forcibly administer acid to their victims.

Conduct West Bengal election in fewer phases: parties to EC

The CEC holds meeting with political parties, State government officials, and Central agencies to review poll preparedness; Congress, Trinamool, CPI(M) urge commission to complete adjudication process of 60 lakh electors before Assembly polls

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Opposition parties in West Bengal on Monday urged the Election Commission to conduct the Assembly election in the State in one or two phases. They made the suggestion at a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

The full commission, led by Mr. Kumar, met with representatives of eight recognised political parties, State government officials and Central agencies as part of the preparation for the election.

Taking stock: Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi and others during the meeting in Kolkata on Monday. X /@ECISVEEP

Representatives of the Bharatiya Janata Party, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), and the Congress wanted elections held in one or two phases. In 2021, the polls were held in eight phases, with the electoral process going on for more than a month.

"Our request is that elections are held in one phase and if required, maximum in two phases," BJP leader Sishir Bajoria said.

Veteran Congress leader Pradip Bhattacharya said the election can be held in one phase provided the commission assured safety and security of electors.

CPI(M) State secretary Mohammed Salim said the party had demanded elections in one phase, or if required, in two phases. He raised the issue of political violence.

The Trinamool Congress delegation, led by senior Ministers such as Chandrima Bhattacharya, demanded that the "60 lakh adjudication cases be resolved transparently, with adequate time, resources, and statutory oversight".

The poll panel has published the final list of electoral rolls with 7.04 crore electors on February 28. Almost 60 lakh electors have been placed under adjudication by judicial officers.

The West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee, in a memorandum to the commission, sought that the final electoral roll should be published after completion of the adjudication process to enable inclusion of all eligible electors. It said the election should be conducted after the publication of these rolls. The CPI(M) wanted the commission to abolish the "under adjudication" status.

The BJP delegation evaded questions on the adjudication of about 60 lakh electors, saying the matter was under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

The parties in the Opposition urged the poll panel to take stringent measures to curb the activities of anti-social elements and prevent intimidation of voters during the elections. Some parties raised concerns about political violence and possible use of crude bombs, illegal firearms, and money or muscle power during the elections.

"The Election Commission has zero tolerance towards violence. We will not leave any stone unturned in ensuring impartial, transparent and peaceful elections," Mr. Kumar said.

He warned senior administrative and police officials that any lapses in maintaining law and order during the polls would not be tolerated.

According to officials, the CEC also pulled up several enforcement agencies, including the excise department, the narcotics authorities, the Airports Authority of India and the Reserve Bank of India for lapses related to seizure of cash.

Protesters show black flags to poll panel chief, shout 'go back' slogans in Kolkata

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar was shown black flags while he was visiting a temple in Kolkata on Monday. Protesters shouted "go back" slogans at the CEC, who, along with the other Election Commissioners, is on a two-day tour of the city to assess poll preparedness in West Bengal.

Symbol of protest: People raising slogans during a demonstration against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in Kolkata. PTI

The poll body officials visited the famous Kali temple in Kalighat which is close to the residence of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Protests erupted outside the temple, but police present at the spot brought the situation under control. "CEC Gyanesh Kumar sought divine blessings at Kalighat Temple and prayed for the well-being of the people of West Bengal, reaffirming the commission's resolve to ensure free, fair and festive elections in the State," the poll panel said after the visit.

Mr. Kumar was accompanied by West Bengal's Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Kumar Agarwal. "May Kali Maa keep everyone well," Mr. Kumar said. He did not comment on the protests.

Though the protesters did not claim allegiance to any political party, Bharatiya Janata Party MP and Union Minister Sukanta Majumdar blamed the ruling Trinamool Congress for the protest, and said the party used "fear as ammunition" to intimidate people.

"Either they threaten voters or police officials, now they are also trying to threaten the EC. They think this will make EC stop their work, but they will continue to work because they do not belong to any party and are independent," he said.

BJP legislator Agnimitra Paul indicated that the protesters could be from the Trinamool though they did not carry any flag. "CEC is a constitutional post, he has Z-Category security, but people (protesters) are coming so close to him. Who is making them do this and why are very clear," she said.

Mr. Kumar is being accompanied by the two Election Commissioners, Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, on his Bengal trip.

The Trinamool organised a protest outside the Kolkata airport and shouted "go back" slogans at the officials. There were protests outside the hotel where Mr. Kumar is staying.

INDIA bloc may move impeachment motion against CEC Gyanesh Kumar

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) parties are likely to move an impeachment motion against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar in the coming days.

According to sources, the Deputy Leader of the Trinamool Congress in the Lok Sabha, Satabdi Roy, raised the issue at the meeting chaired by the Congress chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, at his office.

Plan of action: Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and other INDIA leaders at a meeting in Parliament on Monday. ANI

Next step

Ms. Roy, sources said, underlined that it has been four days since West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee began her protest against the deletion of names from the electoral rolls during the special intensive revision carried out by the Election Commission. She argued that it was crucial for the Opposition to take the next step by moving an impeachment motion against Mr. Kumar. Other Opposition leaders agreed with the suggestion, sources said.

While the Trinamool is piloting the motion, the Opposition is working out the details, including the House in which the motion will be moved. A senior Opposition leader said they have the requisite numbers to introduce the motion in either House.

Article 324(5) of the Constitution says the CEC can be removed through a impeachment process similar to that of a Supreme Court judge. It requires a motion supported by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. In the Rajya Sabha, it must be signed by 50 members and in the Lok Sabha by 100 members. The motion must specify the grounds for seeking removal.

Once the motion is moved, the Chair of the respective House must constitute a special committee to investigate the allegations. If the panel finds the CEC guilty, a vote is held on its report. After both Houses approve the motion, the President issues the final order for removal.

Mamata accuses CEC of threatening West Bengal officials during meeting

Shiv Sahay Singh
Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Accusing Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar of threatening officials of West Bengal during a meeting in Kolkata, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said he was behaving like a "superman" and "super God".

Ms. Banerjee, who has been sitting on a demonstration at Esplanade in Kolkata against the alleged exclusion of voters' names during the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, said that Mr. Kumar had warned officials that action would be taken against them even after the Assembly polls in May.

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee speaking during the dharna against alleged arbitrary deletions from electoral rolls after SIR. PTI

"Today I heard that officers of West Bengal were threatened. It is good to have courage, but not false bravado. Will you remain in your chair after May? First decide that before threatening officials and the people of West Bengal," she said.

From the dharna location, the Trinamool Congress chairperson also challenged the BJP, and said that in the interest of free and fair polls, the party must ensure that those on the adjudication list are allowed to vote. About 60 lakh electors are under adjudication following the publication of the final electoral rolls.

Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister asked party members to "catch" BJP workers and file FIRs against them for allegedly distributing pamphlets near the protest site.

Sharp attack

Ms. Banerjee has been on a sit-in demonstration since March 6, and the stage has turned into a gathering point for Trinamool Congress leaders, some of whom have used the platform to launch sharp attacks against political opponents.

Trinamool Congress general secretary and party's second-in-command Abhishek Banerjee used the protest platform to call for a social boycott of the BJP, saying that merely not voting for the party would not be enough and people should boycott it.

Former AGP leader joins Cong. ahead of Assam polls

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday inducted former Asom Gana Parishad national finance secretary Jayanta Khaund and several others into the party, a move that it hopes will boost the morale of workers ahead of the Assam Assembly polls.

Mr. Khaund joined the Congress at the party headquarters here in the presence of Jitendra Singh Alwar, AICC general secretary in charge of Assam; D.K. Shivakumar, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and Congress senior observer for Assam; Gaurav Gogoi, Assam Congress president; and Manoj Chauhan, AICC national secretary.

Mr. Gogoi said the induction of a grassroots leader like Mr. Khaund reflected growing discontent against the leadership of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

In poll-bound Assam, BJP finalises seat-sharing deal with two regional parties

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

The BJP finalised its seat-sharing deal with two of its three regional allies in poll-bound Assam, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Monday.

The two parties are the Bodoland People's Front (BPF) and the Rabha Hasong Joutha Mancha (RHJM), both focused primarily on areas covered by tribal councils – the former in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), which spans 15 Assembly seats, and the latter in the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council (RHAC), covering three Assembly seats in southwestern Assam.

As in 2021, the RHJM is expected to get one of the three seats in the RHAC area. "While the BPF will contest 11 seats, we will contest four seats in the BTR. We have also come to an understanding with the Rabha Hasong party," the Chief Minister said on the last day of the *Jan Ashirwad Yatra* in Nalbari.

Poll planning: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma greeting supporters during the *Jan Ashirwad Yatra* on Monday. PTI

BTR alliances

He said the pre-poll alliance with another BTR-specific BJP ally, the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL), depends on its equation with the BPF. "We are contesting only four seats. So, the BPF and UPPL will have to work it (seat-sharing) out between themselves," he added.

The UPPL had earlier said it would contest all 15 seats independently if the seat-sharing deal with the BJP did not materialise.

Mr. Sarma said that the BJP had "almost sealed" the seat-sharing deal with the Asom Gana Parishad. "We have sent the list of seats proposed by the AGP to our Central Parliamentary Board in Delhi for its approval," he said.

3 NDA leaders elected to RS unopposed from Assam

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Three National Democratic Alliance candidates were elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Assam on Monday.

Two of them, Minister Jogen Mohan and Terash Gowala, MLA, are from the Bharatiya Janata Party. The third is Pramod Boro, the president of the United People's Party Liberal. They were declared elected unopposed on the last day of withdrawal of nominations, as the Opposition did not contest the polls.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma congratulated them. "I am confident they will take up the causes of Assam in the Upper House deftly and continue to speak for the people of our State whilst supporting the nationalist and development agenda of our Union government in Parliament," he said on X.

BJP chief appoints central observers in Bihar, Haryana, Odisha for Rajya Sabha polls

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Vijay Sharma, Harsh Malhotra will oversee Bihar, Harsh Sanghvi appointed for Haryana, Bawankule will oversee Odisha

BJP chief Nitin Nabin on Monday appointed central observers for the Rajya Sabha election in Bihar, Haryana and Odisha – the States where the number of candidates exceeds the number of seats.

According to a press release, Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma and Union Minister of State Harsh Malhotra have been appointed observers for Bihar. Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghvi has been named observer for Haryana, while Maharashtra Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule will oversee the polls in Odisha.

Polling to fill 37 seats across 10 States will be held on March 16, with counting of votes scheduled the same day at 5 p.m. In States where the number of candidates matches the number of seats, nominees will be considered elected unopposed.

In Odisha, four seats will go to the polls. Odisha BJP chief Manmohan Samal and outgoing Rajya Sabha member Sujeet Kumar have filed nominations for two seats, while the BJD has nominated party leader Santrupt Misra for the third seat. The contest for the fourth seat is between urologist Datteswar Hota and former BJP leader Dilip Ray. Mr. Hota is backed by the BJD and the Congress, while Mr. Ray has the support of the BJP.

In Bihar, five seats will go to the polls. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and BJP president Nitin Nabin are in the fray as candidates from the Janata Dal (U) and the BJP, respectively. Rashtriya Lok Morcha leader Upendra Kushwaha is another candidate, along with Union Minister Ramnath Thakur and Shivesh Kumar, both from the JD (U). However, Mr. Kumar would require three additional votes from non-NDA parties to get elected. From the Opposition camp, the RJD has fielded Amarendra Dhari Singh, a sitting Rajya Sabha MP.

In Haryana, two seats are up for grabs. If not for the entry of Independent candidate Satish Nandal, the BJP and the Congress could have secured one seat each with their candidates – Sanjay Bhatia (BJP) and Karamvir Singh Boudh (Congress).

INBRIEF

India's cheetah population hits 53 with new litter at Kuno

India's cheetah population has crossed 50 since the launch of the Centre's reintroduction programme for the species, after a Namibian cheetah gave birth to five cubs at Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park, taking the total tally to 53. Union Minister for Environment, Forests, and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav shared the news on X, saying the cubs were born to Jwala, a third-time mother now, who had been translocated from Namibia in September 2022 at the launch of Project Cheetah. "With this birth, the number of Indian-born thriving cubs has risen to 33, marking the 10th successful cheetah litter on Indian soil – another important milestone in India's cheetah conservation journey," he said.

Seven labourers killed in wall collapse in Gurugram

Seven labourers were killed and five sustained injuries after a wall collapsed at an under-construction group housing project site at Sidhrawali village in Gurugram district of Haryana on Monday night. The incident occurred during work on a sewage treatment plant at the society. The police received a call around 9.30 p.m., following which police teams, fire brigade personnel, and State Disaster Response Force teams reached the spot. The rescue operation was under way with the various teams searching through the debris to locate trapped survivors.

SC impleads Unnao rape survivor in CBI petition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday recognised the right of the Unnao rape survivor to be heard, and ordered her impleadment as a party in a petition filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) challenging the grant of bail to the accused former BJP MLA, Kuleep Singh Sengar, in the case.

The Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi, however, did not entertain an application filed by the survivor's cousin, a minor, citing a threat to his life. The court said the applicant could seek an independent legal remedy, possibly before the jurisdictional High Court, rather than attempt to implead himself in the CBI petition. The court did not get into the merits of the case as the CBI, represented by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, sought an adjournment.

In December 2025, the top court had stayed the operation of a Delhi High Court order suspending the prison sentence and granting of bail to the expelled BJP leader, who was found guilty of kidnap and rape in the Unnao case.

Bengal submits report to Centre on 'protocol lapse'

Chief Secretary Nandini Chakraborty submits the report over alleged violations during President's north Bengal visit to Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, along with supporting documents

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Secretary Nandini Chakraborty on Monday sent an official report to the Union Home Ministry on alleged protocol lapses during President Droupadi Murmu's visit to West Bengal on Saturday, which led to political uproar in the country.

The report sent by Ms. Chakraborty to Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan contained supporting documents about the sequence of events and reasons behind each issue, sources said.

On Sunday, Mr. Mohan had asked Ms. Chakraborty for a report on alleged violations of Blue Book guidelines during Ms. Murmu's visit. The Blue Book is a confidential document that outlines a list of security and protocol procedures for the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister, and their families.

"The West Bengal government's report has put details of the event on record and has also explained why Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was not present at the President's event," the government source said.

President Droupadi Murmu at the International Santhal Conference in Darjeeling on Saturday. ANI

The Chief Secretary has also explained why officials decided to change the venue for the event

Ms. Banerjee was criticised by the President herself and the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party leaders over alleged protocol violations, as neither the Chief Minister nor any senior State Ministers were present at the airport or venue to receive her.

The Chief Secretary had also explained why officials decided to change the venue for the President's event, sources said.

Clash over 'lapses'

As the controversy raged on the issue, it emerged that Darjeeling district officials had sent letters to senior officials on March 4, saying the organisers were not adequately prepared to host Ms. Murmu's event – the International Santhal Conference.

Ms. Banerjee had also stated that the event was organised by a private organisation and that the security issues had been flagged by the State government with the President's Secretariat well in advance. She added that there was no protocol lapse.

Meanwhile, the Trinamool Congress attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and shared a video where President Murmu could be seen standing while the Prime Minister is seated.

"When it comes to the Hon'ble President of India, Mr. Modi cannot even extend the most basic courtesy of standing up in her presence," the Trinamool's official handle on X posted on Sunday.

Reacting to the video, the BJP alleged that the Trinamool was spreading fake news and manufacturing outrage.

"As per official protocol during the presentation of Bharat Ratna award, others present remain seated while the award is being conferred. There was absolutely no breach of decorum," the BJP posted on X.

PM speaks to leaders of Nepal's RSP on poll win

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday spoke to leaders of the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) of Nepal, Rabi Lamichhane and Balendra Shah, and congratulated them for their election victory and conveyed India's commitment to work with them for mutual prosperity, progress and well-being of the two countries.

In his conversations with the two leaders, Mr. Modi said he was confident that with the joint endeavours, India-Nepal relations will scale new heights in the coming years.

The House of Representatives (HoR) in Nepal has a total of 275 seats. While 165 members are elected through the First Past The Post (FPTP) or direct voting system, 110 members are elected through proportional representation.

With more than 40 lakh votes under the proportional representation system, the RSP is expected to secure at least 40 additional seats, taking its tally to around 164 seats in the 275-member House of Representatives, which is well above the 138 needed for a simple majority, political observers said.

K.N. Panikkar, renowned historian, academic and public intellectual, passes away at 89

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/ NEW DELHI

K.N. PANIKKAR (1936 - 2026)

Eminent historian, academic, and public intellectual K.N. Panikkar, widely regarded as one of India's foremost scholars of modern history, passed away in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. He was 89.

Kandiyoor Narayana Panikkar, popularly known as K.N. Panikkar, was born to Krishnan Nair and Ichkutty Amma in Thaikkad near Guruvayur in 1936. He completed his schooling at Chavakkad Board High School. He pursued his undergraduate studies at Government Victoria College in Palakkad, where he served as chairman of the college union, and later completed his postgraduate studies and Ph.D. at the University of Rajasthan.

He had a distinguished academic career. After teaching in institutions, including the University of Rajasthan, Hansraj College (Delhi University), and the Indian Institute of Public Administration, he joined Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in 1972.

At the JNU, he served as Professor of History, Head of the Centre for Historical Studies, and later Dean of the School of Social Sciences. He had also served as visiting Professor and fellow at several international universities.

Beyond teaching, Professor Panikkar held important academic and institutional roles.

He served as Vice-Chancellor of Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, and later the first Vice-Chairperson of the Kerala State Higher Education Council. He was also the founding Chairperson of the Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR).

Professor Panikkar authored numerous influential books and essays on colonialism, culture, religion, peasant movements, and historiography.

His work on the Malabar region, colonial power structures, and peasant uprisings remains widely cited in modern Indian historiography.

The seminal work *Against Lord and State: Religion and Peasant Uprisings in Malabar (1836-1921)*, which examined the rebellion as a peasant uprising against landlordism and colonial power, had generated extensive scholarly debate and remains one of the most discussed interpretations of the event.

Aditya Mukherjee, a student and colleague of Professor Panikkar, said: "Everyone who studied under him was impressed by his teaching. Apart from being a brilliant academic, he was also a fighter for progressive movements."

G. Arunima, Professor at the JNU's Centre for Women's Studies, a student of Panikkar from 1984 to 1986, recalled him as gentle and sharp, and conversations with him as intellectually stimulating. "He did not mince his words when it came to things that mattered to him," she said.

"He also had a great sense of humour."

She said tributes from former students poured in on WhatsApp groups on Monday.

Mr. Panikkar's wife, Usha Bhargava, had died earlier. He is survived by his daughters, Ragini and Shalini.

'Once released, Wangchuk won't pursue path of protest'

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk will not pursue the path of agitation after he is released from detention under the National Security Act (NSA) but will continue to be part of the movement to demand constitutional safeguards for Ladakh through discussion and dialogue, said Gitanjali J. Angmo, his wife and the co-founder of Himalayan Institute of Alternative Learning (HIAL).

"Who wants to sit on a fast for 15-30 days every time? September 24 (2025) was a black day. Instead of agitation and protests, once he is released, we will look for a solution through dialogue and collaboration. We will make Ladakh a role model," Ms. Angmo told *The Hindu* in an interview on Monday.

Gitanjali J. Angmo

She said her husband did not have "political ambitions" and he agreed to become a member of the high-powered committee led by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai in June 2025 on the insistence of the leaders from Ladakh.

"He agreed to become a member of the HPC only after the May 2025 talks with the MHA [Ministry of Home Affairs] failed, it was organic. If he had political ambitions, over the past 10 years, all political parties have approached him [to contest] whenever there is a Lok Sabha election. He never showed any interest; he thinks his primary role is an educator and an environmentalist," Ms. Angmo said.

The Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), representing the two main districts in Ladakh, which have been spearheading the movement for constitutional safeguards in the Union Territory, are part of the HPC.

She said, be it the Ladakhi groups or the Government of India, everyone had the interest of people and the region on their mind and dialogue and collaboration was the only way forward.

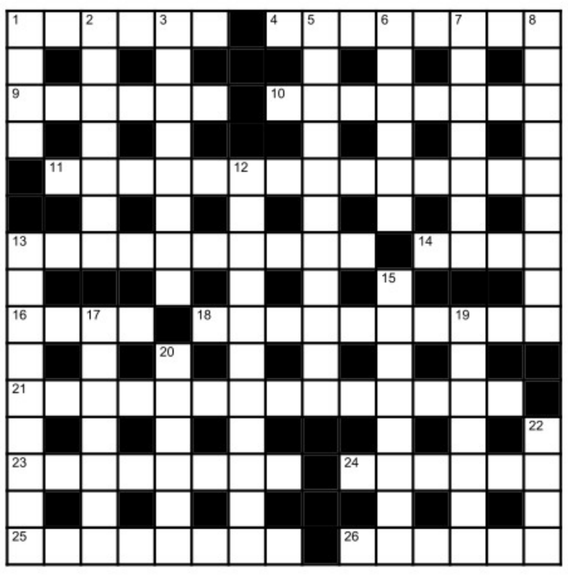
Ms. Angmo had challenged Mr. Wangchuk's detention under the NSA in the Supreme Court. The court will hear the case next on March 10.

TH CROSSWORD + 14737

(set by Hypatia)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Presents containing essence of full flowers (6)
4 Hypocritical woman behind bar, filling mug in retro party (3-5)
9 Remembrance of note, really vacuous (6)
10 Attributes of journalist probing American society (8)
11 Similarity in writing (14)
13 Spooner's sweet turns on large rats (10)
14 Devices from entrances allow transacting money securely (1,1,1,1)
16 Indian bread, banana and sandwiches (4)
18 Type of labourers who repair or call (4-6)
21 Where a wildlife photographer won't be seen sitting pretty (5,2,3,4)
23 Fat spectacles worn by active Italian (5,3)
24 Collection of fliers by A.I. blocking change (6)
25 Plan moving targets to end of July (8)
26 Fly Westbound planes testing limits (6)

Down

1 Sacrificing independence in life, say for a pet (4)
2 Make fun of a maiden in swimming pool before noon (7)
3 Left without putting up single painting or picture (8)
5 The most wide buckles for backbiters? (6,5)
6 Units of carry and use oddly rejected (6)
7 Group of ministers can't be gallivanting outside India (7)
8 Doctor presides over new pharmacist (9)
12 Changing places involving work, student's stealing (11)
13 Girl and old women stuffing pastries in houses (9)
15 Overlooks very boring fellow's drunken binges (8)
17 Binged on story joining reading workshop (7)
19 Thrash bachelor chasing maiden in terminal (7)
20 Frequently find clues set that are least likely to work (6)
22 What's behind much flashy build-up, maybe! (4)

SUDOKU

						1		
8		4	2				9	
1		5	6					8
	9			5				3
2				8			7	
4					6	8		9
	7				1	5		6
		2						

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

R	O	U	N	D	O	F	F	P
A	■	N	■	E	■	E	■	N
C	E	R	E	B	R	A	■	E
I	■	E	■	A	■	T	■	U
A	T	A	F	U	■	H	E	R
L	■	L	■	C	■	E	■	O
■	■	■	S	H	A	R	P	S
S	■	S	■	E	■	B	■	C
H	O	M	E	S	T	R	A	I
O	■	A	■	■	■	A	■	E
O	C	C	L	U	S	I	O	N
T	■	K	■	R	■	N	■	T
F	R	I	A	B	L	E	■	I
O	■	N	■	A	■	D	■	S
R	E	G	I	N	A	■	O	T

P	R	I	V	E	T			
■	A	■	E	■	H			
E	N	G	O	R	G	E		
■	U	■	G	■	M	■	S	
E	A	B	O	U	T			
■	O	■	■	U	■	A		
H	O	O	T	E	R			
■	P	■	H	■	S			
G	H	T	■	■	■			
■	I	■	M	■	W			
D	O	E	T	H				
■	I	■	R	■	I			
I	R	A	N	I	A	N		
■	S	■	N	■	N	■	G	
O	T	O	S	C	O	P	E	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	5	8	3	1	7	4	9	6
3	4	1	9	6	2	7	5	8
6	7	9	4	5	8	3	2	1
1	3	5	6	7	4	9	8	2
4	2	7	1	8	9	6	3	5
9	8	6	5	2	3	1	7	4
8	1	3	7	4	5	2	6	9
5	9	4	2	3	6	8	1	7
7	6	2	8	9	1	5	4	3

FAITH

Sri Lanka Murugan temples

In Sri Lanka, Murugan is known by some special names, said Desa Mangayarkkarasi in a discourse. In Maavittapuram, He is Abhisheka Kandan; in Nallur, He is Alankara Kandan; in Selva Sannidhi, He is Annadana Kandan; in Kadirgamam He is Kaavalkaara Kandan. In Nallur, the sanctum sanctorum has only a small spear (*vel*). This temple is very strict in its observance of the time for various pujas. Usually, we see Puranic figures on gopurams. But an unusual feature of the gopuram here is that it has a clock. At 4.30 a.m., *Thirupalli ezhuchi* is recited, followed by a puja for Vinayaka. Then Murugan is taken around the temple in a ratha. Before 5 a.m. all these rituals are completed. Murugan then goes to the sanctum and the curtain is drawn. When the curtain is lifted, deepa aradhana takes place. Then there is a puja for Arumugan.

In Yazhppanam, in a place full of scenic beauty, we find the Selva Sannidhi Murugan temple. Kanda Puranam says that when Veerabahu was on his way to Veera Mahendrapuri, he rested here. He did sandhi puja and so the place came to be called Selva Sandhi kovil. In course of time, it became Selva Sannidhi. Here too it is only the spear that is worshipped in the sanctum. But there are many huge spears in the sanctum. There was a time when the many maths here provided food to visiting pilgrims. Now, the temple provides a sumptuous meal for devotees. And so, the Murugan here is called Annadana Murugan. On His way to fight Sooran, Murugan established a military camp in Kadirgamam. Here one can only have darshan of a screen with images of Murugan, Valli and Deivanai. Murugan in Kadirgamam is worshipped as a guardian deity.

INBRIEF

'Crude price rise impact not to be substantial on inflation'

The impact of global crude price rise on inflation is not estimated to be substantial at this point as India's inflation is near the lower bound, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday. In a reply to a written question in the Lok Sabha, she said the price of both global crude oil and the Indian basket has been on a declining trajectory for the past one year, till the geo-political clashes commenced in West Asia on February 28, 2026. "Between the end of February and until March 2, 2026, the Crude Oil FOB Price (Indian Basket) rose from $69.01/barrel to $80.16/barrel. Given that India's inflation is near the lower bound, the impact on inflation is not estimated to be substantial at this point," the FM said. She was replying to a query on whether the government has reviewed the impact of rising global crude oil prices on inflation in the country. PTI

I-T dept. detects ₹408 crore of sales underreporting using AI

The Income tax Department has found a preliminary ₹408 crore worth of sales being hidden by restaurants across the country through the deletion of bills and other means to modify the actual sales figures. The investigation began in November 2025. "Advanced analytics of transactional data from about 1.77 lakh restaurants in the F&B sector was carried out using AI-enabled analytical tools," the Department said in a release on Monday. "The data was compared with the turnover declared in their Income Tax Returns," it added. "The analysis revealed large scale under reporting of income. In some cases, recorded sales were not fully reflected in financial accounts or tax filings, and certain transactions were excluded from reported sales." Following these findings, on March 8, the Department conducted a survey of 62 restaurants across 46 cities in 22 States.

BPCL said to charter crude tanker for $7.7 lakh a day amid war

Besides Kalamos, which docked at Paradip on March 8, Adamantios is chartered for $4,63,000 per day and Maran Thaleia at nearly $6,40,000

M. Kalyanaraman
CHENNAI

Momentary respite: Price of auto fuels at the pump has not increased as a knee-jerk reaction to global crude prices. FILE PHOTO

When tanker vessel, Kalamos, leaves Paradip on Tuesday and returns to India with some 2 million barrels of crude oil after 20 days, it would likely be paid the highest rental [charter] rate ever given to any merchant ship in the world. According to Tankers International, a reliable source of maritime information in the public domain, Bharat Petroleum has chartered Kalamos, which docked at Paradip on March 8, for a daily charter rate of $7,70,000 per day for the next voyage.

"This is an insanely high rate. $1,00,000 and above is a strong rate and we called that a strong market last year," said Erik Grundt, Senior Analyst, Rystad Energy, an energy intelligence company based in Norway. Bharat Petroleum officials are not confirming this rate.

Three other very large crude carriers (VLCC) have been chartered at high rates for India.

The charter rate covers only the hire of the vessel. Fuel, port costs, and canal costs are additional. "For a VLCC, this could be another $50,000 a day," said Mr. Grundt. With crude oil prices hopping past $100, consumers may wonder if all these additional costs would be transferred to the consumer. "The price of auto fuels at the pump has not typically increased as a knee-jerk reaction to global crude prices in the past. At such high rates, demand will compress and the prices will stabilise and/or come down. In case of sustained elevated crude prices, oil marketing companies will take a call on pump prices," said Prashant Vasisht, Senior Vice President, ICRA, an investor information and ratings agency.

Kalamos will load up its cargo in Yanbu, a Red Sea port of Saudi Arabia, which has been reportedly piping its fuel supplies to its west coast as an alternative to Persian Gulf that has been closed due to the virtual shutdown of Strait of Hormuz.

Mr. Grundt was able to confirm four fixtures last week for tankers loading in the Arab Gulf/Red Sea bound for India: the Adamantios, Kalamos, Maran Thaleia, and Tejas.

Kalamos is Greek-owned and is a 16-year-old crude oil carrier.

Tankers International said Adamantios has been chartered for a daily rate of $4,63,000 and Maran Thaleia at nearly $6,40,000 a day. In times of crisis, VLCCs of 2 lakh to 3.2 lakh tonnes cargo carrying capacity such as Kalamos are the preferred mode and VLCC charter rates have climbed several times over the last week. India has limited oil tanker capacity of its own, compared with, say China, and that means Indian purchases are more exposed to such volatility, energy experts said.

Mr. Grundt says Kalamos has been chartered for some 22 days indicating it will return to Red Sea after India.

'India not to raise petrol prices despite global headwinds'

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

India will not be raising the retail price of petrol, despite benchmark crude oil prices breaching $100 per barrel on Monday, said a highly placed source in the Union Government.

"We have never increased retail prices during such upward fluctuations in the past," they stated, adding, "[At present], OMCs have enough cushion and are financially comfortable." Further, a top executive of a major domestic oil marketing company (OMC), also assured they were not experiencing any price pressure because of the upward pressure on crude prices. At the time of writing this report (7:35 pm IST), benchmark Brent Crude futures spiked 11.7% since its previous close and was trading at $103.51 per barrel. Intraday, the benchmark had peaked to $119.5 per barrel, scaling levels last reached during the commencement of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Meanwhile, the minimum gap for booking a domestic LPG refill has been increased to 25 days from 21 days to prevent hoarding.

(With PTI inputs)

Investors sell big as crude hits $100/bbl

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

'Escalating Iran-Israel tensions heightened global risk aversion, weighing on investor confidence'

Investors in the Indian stock markets sold big, triggering a 1.4% decline in the benchmark indices, as crude prices breached $100 per barrel as tensions escalated between the U.S.-Israel and Iran.

Indices decline

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 1,352.74 points, or 1.71%, to settle at 77,566.16, registering its second day of decline. On similar lines, the 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 422.40 points, or 1.73%, to end at 24,028.05.

Barring Nifty IT, all sectoral indices declined, with some such as the auto index closing down by 4.1%.

"Escalating tensions between Iran and Israel and the resulting instability in the Middle East heightened global risk aversion, weighing on investor confidence," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head of Research at Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	77,566	-1.71
US Dollar	92.21	-0.42
Gold	1,64,300	0.12
Brent oil	98.51	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1999.20	-40.70
Adani Ports	1421.30	-56.20
Apollo Hosp	7779.00	54.50
Asian Paints	2220.80	-58.70
Axis Bank	1288.30	-27.50
Bajaj Auto	9383.00	-433.00
Bajaj Finserv	1841.50	-27.40
Bajaj Finance	938.05	-12.15
Bharat Elec	457.35	-11.10
Bharti Airtel	1866.70	-4.10
Cipla	1325.00	3.80
Coal India	437.65	-2.80
Dr Reddys Lab	1287.00	-16.80
Eicher Motors	7266.00	-354.50
Eternal Ltd.	229.56	-3.01
Grasim Ind	2681.20	-37.20
HCL Tech	1358.60	1.90
HDFC Bank	840.70	-16.35
HDFC Life	653.75	-14.80
Hindalco	945.35	-13.55
Hind Unilever	2194.60	-31.10
ICICI Bank	1278.40	-35.00
IntGlobeAvi	4236.70	-167.40
Infosys	1315.00	6.60
ITC	306.00	-3.70
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	232.25	-7.10
JSW Steel	1192.60	-41.10
Kotak Bank	386.35	-13.45
L&T	3842.10	-107.70
M&M	3187.60	-144.90
Maruti Suzuki	13508.00	-651.00
Max Healthcare	1041.50	-0.50
NestleIndia	1235.80	-16.60
NTPC	376.25	-4.35
ONGC	270.80	-8.15
PowerGrid Corp	295.20	-3.95
Reliance Ind	1424.00	19.20
SBI Life	1912.50	-29.10
State Bank	1098.50	-44.50
Shriram Finance Ltd.	987.20	-20.30
Sun Pharma	1807.40	8.00
TataConsumerProduct	1102.50	-14.20
Tata Steel	191.01	-7.45
TCS	2527.40	-30.20
Tech Mahindra	1336.30	4.60
Titan	4159.20	-85.40
Tata Motors PV	332.00	-18.75
Trent Ltd.	3689.40	-33.40
UltraTech Cement	11378.00	-609.00
Wipro	198.75	3.35

Kiwi, Allianz Jio get IRDAI nod

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has approved grant of certificate of registration to Allianz Jio Reinsurance and Kiwi General Insurance.

The global share of women taking up AI courses is 36%, as per the report.

31.2% of AI learners in India are women: study

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Women accounted for 31.2% of those taking AI courses online in India last year, according to a new report by the online learning platform Coursera.

The findings represent a snapshot of how the digital divide across gender lines is also mapping on to AI access and use. The global share of women taking up AI courses is 36%. In 2024, women as a proportion of course takers was 2.2 percentage points lower.

The findings also confirm that women's academic outperformance of men is reflected in a higher likelihood of actually finishing courses.

"Across a meaningful minority of countries, women are more likely than men to complete GenAI courses once they enrol, demonstrating strong persistence and commitment to these pressing new skills," Coursera said.

The difference is slight though, with the percentage of women course takers being 3 percentage points more than men in India (Coursera did not disclose overall completion rates), as per the report.

RBI buys ₹50,000 cr. G-Secs for liquidity, tranche 2 on Friday

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The rupee ended 39 paisa down versus previous close.

With the prolonged war in West Asia likely to have far-reaching consequences on the Indian economy, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) held Open Market Operations (OMO) buying ₹50,000 crore Government of India securities (G-Secs) of various maturities.

On Friday, 'on a review of the current liquidity and financial conditions,' the RBI decided to conduct OMO for buying G-Secs of ₹1,00,000 crore in two tranches of ₹50,000 crore each on March 9 and 13.

Monetary policy tool

OMOs are key money market policy tools used by the RBI to regulate money supply by buying or selling G-Secs.

The latest move is aimed at injecting liquidity.

The OMO is to offset liquidity constraints arising out of advance tax outflows and have sufficient funds for lending by banks.

Previous operations

In December 2025 and January this year, the RBI had conducted OMO purchases of ₹2,00,000 crore in four tranches of ₹50,000 crore each.

In May 2025, the RBI had conducted OMO purchases totalling ₹1,25,000 crore to support growth.

On Monday, the RBI also notified the Government of India had bought back G-Secs worth ₹6,309 crore via switch auction conducted by it and issued bonds worth ₹6,431 crore.

The securities purchased by the government were a part of the bonds scheduled to mature in the next financial year.

Rupee plunges

The Indian rupee fell to a record low of 92.36 against the U.S. Dollar on Monday owing to fears of a prolonged war in West Asia and on account of crude oil prices surging to more than $110 a barrel.

With the reported intervention of the RBI, the Indian rupee, as per Clearing Corporation of India spot rate, closed at 92.21 a U.S. Dollar as compared with its previous close of 91.82, down 39 paisa.

"In line with broader weakness across Asian currencies, the Indian rupee has depreciated against the U.S. Dollar as international crude oil prices surged past $100 per barrel, reclaiming levels not seen since 2022," said Dilip Parmar, research analyst, HDFC Securities.

"These soaring energy costs pose a significant threat to India's trade deficit, GDP growth, and inflation, given the country's high reliance on oil imports. Amid heightening geopolitical uncertainty, the spot USDINR is expected to remain firm, with a resistance level near 93.00 and established support at 91.80," he added.

Boost cyber, operational, resilience, says Nasscom

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Nasscom issued an advisory to member-companies urging heightened cyber vigilance and preparedness across business continuity and cybersecurity frameworks in the wake of the evolving geopolitical situation in West Asia,

While business operations are stable now, firms are proactively reviewing contingency plans and strengthening resilience measures to mitigate potential disruptions, the apex body said in a communique.

Nasscom said the member companies had already taken various steps to support business continuity in affected geographies. They are also reviewing and activating contingency frameworks to ensure operational continuity and uninterrupted service in the event of disruptions. To ensure staff safety, firms are enabling remote work, Nasscom said.

Enterprises are also evaluating alternative infrastructure routing to ensure cloud and data centre resilience and the safety of critical systems, it said.

Employees have been advised to limit non-essential travel through the region and explore alternative transit routes where required.

In addition, firms are communicating to clients preparedness measures.

Nasscom further said it continues to monitor the evolving situation in parts of West Asia and remains in regular contact with the Middle East Council to assess developments on the ground and extend support where required.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
GOVERNMENT INDIAN MEDICINE PHARMACY (UNANI) KATTEDAN, HYDERABAD.
e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender Notification No.189/P/GIMP/U/2026-3 **Date: 09-03-2026**

Short Tender are invited for supply of Essential Compound Medicines (Unani) **under National AYUSH Mission** for supply to various Hospitals and Dispensaries in Telangana State. Approval of rates for the year 2025 - 26. The details of the e-Tender can be obtained and downloaded from corrigendum tender documents from the Website: **https://tender.telangana.gov.in Name of the Tender :** e-Procurement of Essential Compound Medicines (Unani) under National AYUSH Mission for supply to various Unani Hospitals and Dispensaries in Telangana State. Approval of rates for the year 2025 - 26. **Tender Schedule :** May be obtained from **https://tender.telangana.gov.in, Bid document downloading Starting date :** 10/03/2026 at 10.30 A.M., **Bid document downloading ending date :** 16/03/2026 at 03.00 P.M., **Last date and time for receipt of Bids copies :** 16/03/2026 at 05.00 P.M.,
Mob. No. 9989773023, Mail Id: gimpukhyd@gmail.com Sd/- Chief Superintendent (Ic), Govt. Indian Medicines Pharmacy (Unani)
DIPR R.O.No.16675-PP/CL/ADVT.I/2025-26 Dt. 09.03.2026 Plot No. G9 & 10, Industrial Area, Kattedan, Hyderabad-500077, T.S.

V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority
Civil Engineering Department
Tuticorin-628 004.
SAGARMALA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

#	Name of the work	Estimated cost Put to tender value (Amount in INR)	Cost of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Amount in INR)	Online Tender opening date
1.	Renovation of the Swimming Pool including Roof Top facilities in VOC Port.	6,53,71,461/-	13,07,429/-	25.03.2026

Note:
For eligible tenderers, downloading of bid documents from the NIC e-tendering website:
i) https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app
ii) https://www.vocport.gov.in

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER, VOCPA

ਦਫਤਰ ਨਗਰ ਸੁਧਾਰ ਟਰੱਸਟ ਬਠਿੰਡਾ
ਜਨਤਕ ਸੂਚਨਾਂ

ਨਗਰ ਸੁਧਾਰ ਟਰੱਸਟ ਬਠਿੰਡਾ ਦੀ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਸਕੀਮ ਬਲਿਊ ਫੈਕਸ ਸਕੀਮ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਮਰਸ਼ੀਅਲ ਸਾਈਟ **4194 ਵ:ਗਜ਼** ਦੀ ਈ-ਆਕਸ਼ਨ ਪ੍ਰਣਾਲੀ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਮਿਤੀ **18-03-2026 ਤੋਂ ਮਿਤੀ 20-03-2026 ਤੱਕ** ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ। ਬਿੱਡਰ ਲਈ ਰਜਿਟਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਹੋਣ/ਬੰਦ ਹੋਣ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਈ-ਆਕਸ਼ਨ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਵੇਚੀਆਂ ਜਾਣ ਵਾਲੀਆਂ ਜਾਇਦਾਦਾਂ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਵਿਸਥਾਰਪੂਰਵਕ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਆਨਲਾਈਨ ਪੋਰਟਲ **www.tenderwizard.com/DLGP** ਤੇ ਦੇਖੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਈ-ਆਕਸ਼ਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਸ਼ਡਿਊਲ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਵਪਾਰਕ/ਰਿਹਾਇਸ਼ੀ ਜਾਇਦਾਦਾਂ ਦੀ ਪੇਸ਼ਕਸ਼ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ:-

ਬਿੱਡਰ ਲਈ ਰਜਿਸਟਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਹੋਣ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਾਂ	**10-02-2026 ਸਮਾਂ 10:00 ਵਜੇ ਸਵੇਰੇ**
ਬਿੱਡਰ ਲਈ ਰਜਿਸਟਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਬੰਦ ਹੋਣ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਾਂ	**02-03-2026 ਸਮਾਂ 05:00 ਵਜੇ ਸ਼ਾਮ**
ਆਨਲਾਈਨ ਬਿੱਡ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਹੋਣ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਾਂ	**04-03-2026 ਸਮਾਂ 11:00 ਵਜੇ ਸਵੇਰੇ**
ਆਨਲਾਈਨ ਬਿੱਡ ਬੰਦ ਹੋਣ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਾਂ	**06-03-2026 ਸਮਾਂ 05:00 ਵਜੇ ਸ਼ਾਮ**

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ.	ਪ੍ਰਾਪਰਟੀ ਦੀ ਕਿਸਮ/ ਕੈਟਾਗਿਰੀ	ਮੰਤਵ	ਕੁੱਲ	ਸਾਈਜ਼ ਅਤੇ ਰਕਬਾ	ਰਾਖਵੀਂ ਕੀਮਤ	ਕੁੱਲ ਕੀਮਤ (ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਇੰਕ)	ਬਿਆਨਾ ਰਕਮ (5%)
			ਬਲਿਊ ਫੈਕਸ				
1	ਕਮਰਸ਼ੀਅਲ ਚੌਕ ਸਾਈਟ	(ਕਮਰਸ਼ੀਅਲ ਹੋਟਲ / ਨਰਸਿੰਗ ਹੋਮ ਇੰਸਟੀਚਿਊਟ/ ਹਸਪਤਾਲ ਆਦਿ ਲਈ)	1	4194 ਵ:ਗਜ਼ (As per Site)	50,000/- ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਵ:ਗਜ਼	2097.00 ਲੱਖ	104.85 ਲੱਖ

ਇਸ ਈ-ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਸ਼ਰਤਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਦਫਤਰੀ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਬੋਰਡ / ਵੈਬਸਾਈਟ **www.tenderwizard.com/DLGP** ਅਤੇ ਦਫਤਰੀ ਕੰਮ-ਕਾਜ ਦੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਫੋਨ ਨੰਬਰ 0164-3558725 ਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

ਕਾਰਜ ਸਾਧਕ ਅਫਸਰ
ਨਗਰ ਸੁਧਾਰ ਟਰੱਸਟ, ਬਠਿੰਡਾ

1857/12/2025-26/9191

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OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL HEAD, BCD-1, IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR
Bid Identification No. BCD-1/Estt.-01&02/2025-2026 : TCN No.339, Dt.27.02.2026
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

A. Name of the Work : I) Providing Interior Works (Civil+Electrical +HVAC +Extinguisher System +DATA networking System) for proposed O- Chip Program Facility Unit at 1st Floor of "B" Block, Odisha Technology Centre of OCAC at Acharya Vihar Square, Bhubaneswar.
II) Construction Of Boundary Wall For Balance Area (North, South & West Side) At Pathani Samanta Planetarium, Bhubaneswar.
B. Value of Work : 1) Rs.218.36 Lakh (Approx); 2) Rs.90.02 Lakh (Approx).
C. Period of completion : 06 (Six) Calendar Months for each work
D. Availability of tender online for Bidding :
i. Start Date : 18:00 Hours of Dt.10.03.2026
ii. End Date : 18:00 Hours of Dt.24.03.2026
iii. Opening date : 11.00 Hours of Dt.25.03.2026.
The tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: **www.tendersorissa.gov.in.** Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in **e-procurement portal** as well as in **IDCO website.**

Sd/- Divisional Head, BCD-I, IDCO, Bhubaneswar
4001/55/2526 OIPR-4001/4075/1/25-26/0021

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF, PUBLIC HEALTH, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT
Invitation For Bids (IFB) Dtd.20.02.2026

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Bid Identification No.	Estimated Cost (Approx.) Rs.inLakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Availability of Bid Document for Online Bidding From	To
1.	Construction of ESR, UGR along with laying of pipeline including other ancillary work in Khariar Road NAC	EICPH-06/ 2025-26	1161.94	'A' Class & Special Class	9 (Nine) Months	11.00 Hrs. of 25.02.2026	17.00 Hrs. of 20.03.2026
2.	Construction of ESR, UGR along with laying of pipeline including other ancillary work in Nuapada NAC	EICPH-07/ 2025-26	1161.81	'A' Class & Special Class	9 (Nine) Months	11.00 Hrs. of 27.02.2026	17.00 Hrs. of 20.03.2026

* Name & Address of Officer Inviting Bid : The Engineer-In-Chief (PH), Office of The Engineer-in-Chief, PH, 1st Floor, Unnati Bhawan, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751007. Phone: #91-674-2575309, e-mail: eicphodisha@gmail.com
* Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal : "https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in".
* **All amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.**

ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (PH)
10001/109/2526 OIPR-10001/10243/1/25-26/0015

BERLIN

German State election deals blow to Merz as Greens look set to win

AFP

The German Greens are set to narrowly beat Friedrich Merz's CDU in an election in Baden-Wuerttemberg, dealing the Chancellor a blow ahead of polls this year as surveys show the far right surging. Final results showed the Greens taking 30.2% of the vote, just ahead of the CDU with 29.7% and the far-right AfD with 18.8%. AFP

WASHINGTON

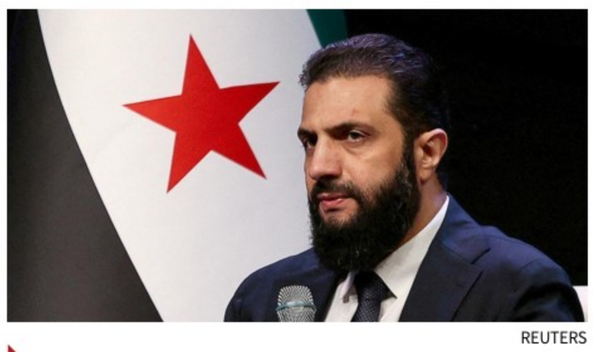
Six killed after U.S. military strikes 'drug boat' in Eastern Pacific

AFP

The U.S. military said it killed six men on Sunday in a strike on an alleged drug-smuggling vessel in the eastern Pacific Ocean. Sunday's attack brought the death toll to at least 157 people since the [Donald] Trump administration began targeting those it calls "narcoterrorists" in small vessels in early September. AP

DAMASCUS

Syrian President extends support to Lebanon to disarm Hezbollah



REUTERS

Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa on Monday declared his support for his Lebanese counterpart Joseph Aoun in the latter's effort to disarm Hezbollah, state media reported. The West Asia war expanded to Lebanon on March 2, after Iran-backed Hezbollah fired rockets towards Israel. AFP

WASHINGTON

Anthropic takes U.S. government to court over row with Pentagon

REUTERS

AI company Anthropic filed suit on Monday against the [Donald] Trump administration, alleging the U.S. government retaliated against the tech firm for refusing to let its Claude AI model be used for autonomous lethal warfare. The company seeks to block the Pentagon from placing it under a national security blacklist. AFP

Iran picks Mojtaba Khamenei as new leader

The 57-year-old will be the third Supreme Leader of the Republic, after Khomeini and Khamenei; U.S. President Donald Trump had said last week the new leader should be acceptable to him; Putin offers his 'unwavering support' for Mojtaba, while China says his selection is based on Constitution

Stanly Johny

Iran's Assembly of Experts, an 88-member clerical body, announced on Sunday night that it had chosen Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, son of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the former Supreme Leader who was assassinated by a joint American-Israeli strike on February 28, as the country's new leader.

The 57-year-old cleric will be the third Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic, after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, founder of the republic, and Ali Khamenei, who held the position for 37 years. Though Iran has an elected President, the Supreme Leader is the head of the state and the commander-in-chief of the country's armed forces, making him the most powerful authority in the system.

"By a decisive vote, the Assembly of Experts appointed Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei as the third Leader of the sacred system of the Islamic Republic of Iran," the Assembly said in a statement.

On February 28, after U.S.-Israeli strikes killed Ali Khamenei and several other top Iranian officials, President Donald Trump had asked Iranians to overthrow the government. On March 5, Mr. Trump said he wanted to have a role in the selection of Iran's new Supreme Leader. He called Mojtaba Khamenei a "lightweight", and said the new leader should be acceptable to him.

Soon after the Assembly made the announcement, Iranian Foreign Ministry issued a statement congratulating the new leader. "In the current and critical situation facing the country, this choice will undoubtedly guarantee our nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity and will strengthen national unity and cohesion," it said in a statement. Other branches of the state, including the armed forced, welcomed the appointment. Ali Larijani, Secretary of the National Security Council, said Mr. Khamenei "will be a source of goodness and blessings".

People hold images of new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei and late Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in Tehran on Monday. REUTERS

Born in 1969 in Mashhad, Mojtaba Khamenei, the second son of Ali Khamenei, fought "on the frontlines" during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, according to an official biography released by the state media. After the war, he moved to Qom for advanced seminary studies. He has built close ties with both the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and the clerical establishment.

The younger Khamenei has maintained strong ties with figures associated with the Axis of Resistance, stated the biography, referring to Iran's non-state allies in the region. "He shared a particularly close relationship with Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah," the Secretary General of Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shia militia, who was assassinated by an Israeli strike in September 2024. Hezbollah, which is fighting Israeli forces in southern Lebanon, issued a statement pledging loyalty to the new Supreme Leader.

Russia and China, Iran's close partners, welcomed the new Supreme Leader. "I would like to reaffirm our unwavering support for Tehran and solidarity with our Iranian friends," Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a message to Mr. Khamenei. "Russia has been and will remain a reliable partner to Iran. At a time when Iran is confronting armed aggression, your tenure in this high position will undoubtedly require great courage and dedication."

China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun told reporters in Beijing on Monday that Iran's decision to appoint the younger Khamenei was "based on its constitution". "China opposes interference in other countries' internal affairs under any pretext, and Iran's sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity should be respected," he said when asked about the threats against the new leader, according to an AFP report.

Iran targets energy installations in Gulf as oil prices surge

Agence France-Presse
MANAMA

Iran launched new strikes on energy installations in the Persian Gulf on Monday, including a petroleum complex in Bahrain, as oil prices spiralled above $100 a barrel.

Bahrain's Al Ma'ameer oil facility was hit, causing a fire and damage, with the country's state-owned energy firm Bapco declaring force majeure. Energy producers in Qatar and Kuwait earlier made similar declarations, which are a warning that events beyond their control may lead them to miss export targets.

With the key shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz off Iran remaining closed to almost all oil tankers, the price of crude oil contracts spiralled 10% to their highest levels since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Two Emirati servicemen were, meanwhile, killed after their helicopter crashed due to a "technical malfunction", Abu Dhabi's Defence Ministry said.

Fresh blitz

Saudi Arabia's Defence Ministry said the kingdom took down and destroyed two waves of drones heading towards the Shaybah oil field.

Bahrain said another Iranian drone attack on the island of Sitra injured 32 people overnight.

Qatar said it intercepted 17 ballistic missiles and six drones launched from Iran with no casualties reported.

The UAE said it detected 15 ballistic missiles, destroying 12 while three fell into the sea, and intercepted 17 of 18 drones.

Probe suggests U.S. struck Iran school, killing over 160

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

New video evidence shows an American Tomahawk missile hitting a site adjacent to the school

New footage shows what an expert investigative group says is likely an American Tomahawk missile hitting a compound in southern Iran, metres from the school where a deadly unclaimed blast killed over 165 people, at the start of the war raging in West Asia.

It comes as mounting evidence points to U.S. culpability for the February 28 strike, which hit a school adjacent to a Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) base in Minab, in the country's southern Hormozgan Province.

The new footage, first analysed by the investigative group Bellingcat, was taken the day the school was struck but circulated on Sunday by Iran's semi-official Mehr news agency.

The Associated Press was able to geolocate the video and determine it was taken from a site adjacent to the school, while smoke was already rising from the school vicinity. Satellite imagery of the compound is consistent with visual identifiers found in the video.

Trevor Ball, a Bellingcat researcher, identified the munition as a Tomahawk cruise missile – which only the U.S. is known to possess in this war. It's the first evidence of a munition used in the strike.

U.S. Central Command has acknowledged using Tomahawk missiles in this war and even released a photo of the *USS Spruance*, part of the *USS Abraham Lincoln* aircraft carrier group located within range of the school, firing a Tomahawk missile on the same day.

Bellingcat said the footage "appears to contradict" U.S. President Donald Trump's claim that Iran was responsible for the deadly school blast.

Janina Dill, an expert on international law at Oxford University, wrote on X that even if the strike was a misidentification – and the attacker believed that the school had been a part of the neighbouring IRGC base – it would still be "a very serious violation of international law."

Clock ticking

Under rubble: An aerial picture shows a rescue team using heavy machinery to search for people following a landslide at Bantargebang landfill in Bekasi, West Java, on Monday. A landslide on Indonesia's biggest landfill buried trucks and food stalls, killing five people, rescuers said as they searched for at least four more reported missing. AFP

Top Turkish Opposition leader takes stand in court

Associated Press
ISTANBUL

Istanbul's jailed Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu went on trial on Monday with more than 400 other defendants accused of widespread corruption in a case critics see as a politically motivated move against Turkey's opposition

Mr. Imamoglu is the main challenger to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's 23-year rule. He was elected as the candidate of Republican People's Party, the main opposition party, for an election due in 2028 just days after he was detained. Mr. Imamoglu described the trial as "one of the toughest tests of democracy" in Turkey's history.

Israel accused of chemical attacks in Lebanon

Associated Press
BEIRUT

The human rights group Human Rights Watch said in a report on Monday that the Israeli military "unlawfully" hit a village in southern Lebanon with shells containing white phosphorus, a controversial incendiary munition.

Through geolocating and verifying seven images, the New York-based rights group said Israel fired white phosphorus using artillery at residential areas in the southern Lebanese village of Yohmor on March 3, 2026.

It happened hours after the Israeli military warned the residents of the village and dozens of others in southern Lebanon to evacuate.

Escalating conflict: Smoke rises from Israeli bombardment in the southern Lebanese area of Kfar Tibnit on March 3. AFP

Human Rights Watch said it could not independently identify if any residents were still in the area or if anyone was harmed.

White phosphorus can be used to create smokescreens and to illuminate battlefields.

Human rights advocates say the use of white phosphorus is illegal under international law when the white-hot chemical substance is fired into populated areas. It can set buildings on fire and burn human flesh down to the bone. Survivors are at risk of infections and organ or respiratory failure, even if their burns are small.

"The Israeli military's unlawful use of white phosphorus over residential areas is extremely alarming and will have dire consequences for civilians," said Ramzi Kaiss, Lebanon researcher at Human Rights Watch.

Organizations like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International said the munition was used in Israel's last war with Hezbollah, over a year ago, on numerous occasions in southern Lebanon while civilians were still present.

Habitual offender

Last month, Lebanon accused Israel of spraying the herbicide glyphosate on the Lebanese side of their shared border, with President Joseph Aoun decrying it as a "crime against the environment".

Lebanese authorities said on Monday that Israel's attacks since March 2 have killed at least 486 people including 83 children. *(With inputs from AFP)*

Rubio accuses Iran of trying to 'hold world hostage' with strikes

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio accused Iran of taking the world hostage through its retaliatory strikes and insisted that the United States was on track with its war objectives.

"I think we are all seeing right now the threat this clerical regime poses to the region and to the world. They are trying to hold the world hostage," Mr. Rubio said.

"They are attacking neighbouring countries, their energy infrastructure, their civilian population," he said.

"The objective of this mission is to destroy their ability to continue to do that, and we are well on our way to achieving that."

Iran has fired off a barrage of missiles and drones on Israel and on Gulf countries, which are key bases for U.S. forces, after the joint U.S.-Israeli attacks began on February 28.

Mr. Rubio was speaking at an event at the State Department to honour wrongfully detained Americans and hostages. He was joined by family members of Robert Levinson, a former FBI agent who disappeared in 2007 on the Iranian island of Kish.

The U.S. concluded in 2020 that the Iranian government was involved in his presumed death.

Levinson was said to be on a mission to investigate cigarette counterfeiting, although *The Washington Post* reported in 2013 that he had been working with the CIA and had gone on a rogue mission to gather intelligence.

Levinson is "particularly a reminder of the nature of the regime that we are dealing with in Tehran," Mr. Rubio said.

STUFF OF CHAMPIONS

Four Indian players named in ICC's team of the tournament

EMMANUAL YOGINI

ICC's team of the tournament for T20 World Cup: Sahibzada Farhan (Pak), Sanju Samson (Ind, wk), Ishan Kishan (Ind), Aiden Markram (SA, Capt.), Hardik Pandya (Ind), Will Jacks (Eng), Jason Holder (WI), Jasprit Bumrah (Ind), Lungi Ngidi (SA), Adil Rashid (Eng), Blessing Muzarabani (Zim). 12th man: Shadley van Schalkwyk (USA).

SAY CHEESE!

Intensity with smile is a killer combo, Dhoni tells Gambhir

GETTY IMAGES

M.S. Dhoni told T20 World Cup-winning India head coach Gautam Gambhir how good a smile looks on his intense face. "History gets created at Ahmedabad. Coach *Sahab,* smile looks great on u, intensity with smile is a killer combo," Dhoni wrote on social media. Gambhir responded: "And what a reason to smile, great seeing you".

SIMPLE FORMULA

Bumrah and the power-hitters key to India's success, feels Hussain

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Nasser Hussain believes the genius of Jasprit Bumrah and the abundance of power-hitters make India virtually unbeatable in the T20 format. "India's formula is pretty simple. A batting line-up full of powerful hitters that will get you an above-par score and a bowler in Bumrah who makes a below-par score probably enough".

FORMIDABLE OUTFIT

India could hold all three ICC white-ball titles together: Atherton

EMMANUAL YOGINI

The Men in Blue are the pre-eminent white-ball side at the moment. They may well mop it all up. There is a 50-over World Cup next year, and they have the chance now to hold the Champions Trophy, T20 World Cup and the 50-over World Cup all in one go. That will surely be their aim — former England captain Michael Atherton.

Team India exudes an aura of invincibility in T20Is

The Men in Blue overcame the pressure of playing in their backyard; the latest successful effort was mounted on muscular batting and a bowling attack that saw Bumrah step up all the time

T20 WORLD CUP

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
AHMEDABAD

Great teams have an air of inevitability when it comes to success. The Men in Blue, specifically in T20Is, exude that aura.

The West Indies, cutting across formats in the 1970s and '80s, and its successor Australia, all had this swagger backed by performance. When Suryakumar Yadav's men claimed the ICC T20 World Cup at New Zealand's expense at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Sunday, it seemed preordained. Such was India's dominance.

Raising the game

The host retained the title, previously won in 2024, and tided past the pressure of playing in the backyard as soaring expectations could at times choke.

Including the latest conquest, cutting across ODIs and T20Is, India has won five World Cups, and three Champions Trophies.

Additionally, nine Asia Cups and the 1985 World Championship of Cricket in Australia, were all secured.

This triumphant run commenced in 1983 when Kapil Dev held aloft the World Cup at Lord's.

Consistent run

Yet, consistency in winning global trophies started only in 2024 as two T20 World Cups and a Champions Trophy have been seized since then.

The latest successful effort was mounted on muscular batting and a bowling that had Jasprit Bumrah to step up all the time.

That India would get through the group stages and enter the Super Eight was a foregone conclusion. The more difficult part was in sustaining form in the knockout phase.

Yes, the clash against Pakistan at Colombo had its own set of difficulties, primarily off the field due to complicated diplomacy and historical angst.

But in all these encounters, India prevailed. South Africa offered a reality check, just like it did during the 2011 50-over World Cup. But then and now, the host moved ahead.

This was a campaign in which opener Abhishek Sharma struggled for a large part despite two fifties, with one coming in the final. And Varun Chakaravarthy, who along with Bumrah, finished as the highest wicket-taker with 14 scalps each, had his lukewarm days too.

But India always marched on. Sanju Samson's comeback atop the batting tree and his three consecutive 80-plus scores in the last three games ensured that opening blues were no longer an issue. Ishan Kishan, Tilak Varma and Shivam Dube, all flexed their bats.

Hardik Pandya, at times with runs, crucial wickets and bustling energy on the field, was critical to India's propulsion. That men like Kishan and Axar Patel, would also be remembered for their fielding, is a reflection of how India ticked most of the boxes. India in the blue shade is in the ascendant.

Hopefully there would be success in Tests too, an attribute that went missing as New Zealand and South Africa came visiting and left with series triumphs.

It is one aspect that coach Gautam Gambhir has to address.

Jammu and Kashmir winning the Ranji Trophy is another clue to how cricket's roots have spread wide, and India is bound to benefit, even as the Indian Premier League saunters into view.

Champagne moment: Kishan, Tilak, Suryakumar and Hardik are over the moon after India's triumph. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Glittering stars

BATTING	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s
Farhan (Pak)	6	**383**	100*	160.25	2/2
Seifert (NZ)	8	**326**	89*	166.32	0/4
Samson (Ind)	5	**321**	97*	199.37	0/3
Kishan (Ind)	9	**317**	77	193.29	0/3
Allen (NZ)	8	**298**	100*	200.00	1/1

BOWLING	Inns	Wkts	BB	Econ	4W
Bumrah (Ind)	8	**14**	4/15	6.21	1
Varun (Ind)	9	**14**	3/7	9.25	0
van Schalkwyk (USA)	4	**13**	4/25	6.80	2
Muzarabani (Zim)	6	**13**	4/17	7.88	1
Adil Rashid (Eng)	8	**13**	3/36	8.15	0

Samson's comeback atop the batting tree and his three consecutive 80-plus scores in the last three games ensured that opening blues were not an issue

Kishan overcomes a personal loss to excel in the summit clash

Amol Karhadkar
AHMEDABAD

During the prolonged celebrations at the Narendra Modi Stadium following India's historic third T20 World Cup triumph on Sunday, Ishan Kishan and Hardik Pandya broke into an impromptu rendition of traditional Gujarati dance.

While the two were all smiles, a little over 24 hours earlier they had a far more serious conversation.

During India's practice session on Saturday evening, Kishan was informed that his cousin and her husband had succumbed to injuries suffered in a road accident in Siliguri on Friday.

A shaken Kishan briefly contemplated skipping the final against New Zealand and returning home to be with his grieving family.

A conversation with Hardik – who has been like an elder brother to him over the last three years – helped him remain focused on the task at hand.

"I played the match for her. I spoke to Hardik *bhai*, he told me to put the team ahead. I dedicate this win to her, and today is Women's Day, so it makes it all the more special," Kishan said after the final.

Not only did Kishan set aside his personal grief, he also channelled the emotion into a memorable performance on the field.

Tough cookie: An agile Kishan took a stunning catch to send back Rachin off Bumrah's bowling. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Kishan's cousin and her husband had succumbed to injuries suffered in a road accident in Siliguri on Friday
A conversation with Hardik helped him remain focused on the task at hand

His 25-ball 54 helped India sustain the momentum, while three sharp catches on the boundary ensured New Zealand never found a way back into the contest.

The wicketkeeper-batter had returned to India's T20I set-up on the cusp of the title defence after a two-year hiatus.

By the end of the tournament, he had emerged as the fourth-highest run-scorer, amassing 317 runs at an average of 35.22 and a strike rate of 193.29.

Return to ODIs?

With a campaign like that, questions about a possible return to India's ODI side were inevitable. "I have stopped thinking too much. Just do your work and not think about things which are not under your control, and that's what Virat (Kohli) *bhai* always did," Kishan said.

The PowerPlays made the difference: Kiwi skipper Santner

Amol Karhadkar
AHMEDABAD

Mitchell Santner, the New Zealand captain, admitted that the PowerPlay overs in both the essays proved decisive during his team's annihilation by India in the ICC T20 World Cup final here on Sunday.

"I think the tale of the day was the two PowerPlays. They were 90 for none (92 without loss) and we were three for 40 (52 for three)," Santner said. "When you come up against a very good team in a final, you always want to do well. We obviously know that we weren't at our best. If you aren't at your best against a very good team, you are going to be exposed, and that's what happened tonight (Sunday)," the skipper added.

While India openers Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma took their time to get going - scoring just 12 off the first two overs before going berserk to add 80 more in the next four overs - New Zealand contributed handsomely to the host's cause by bowling wide of the stumps way too early in the innings.

Praise for rival openers

"Credit to Sanju and Abhishek at the top to get 90 (92) off the PowerPlay," Santner said. "It's pretty tough from there (to come back). It was a pretty good pitch throughout. There wasn't much for the bowlers. The cutters weren't really holding, there was not much spin. Either way you look at it, if we could have got a couple (of wickets) in the PowerPlay, squeezed them a little bit through the middle, 220 could have been chased down on a very good pitch".

A struggle: The Kiwis never got going and failed to mount a challenge while chasing a mammoth target. EMMANUAL YOGINI

How Dube's bat helped Abhishek regain form

Amol Karhadkar
AHMEDABAD

"I have played such a long innings after a long time, so I am having cramps. Sorry, guys." Abhishek Sharma – India's marauding opener – was candid enough to admit that, as he excused himself early from the post-match media interaction.

His partner Ishan Kishan continued to field questions from a large media contingent well past 1 a.m., hours after the Men in Blue sealed a historic ICC T20 World Cup triumph.

Abhishek had entered the showpiece as a prime contender for the Player-of-the-Tournament award. But by the time India reached the knockouts, the narrative had shifted to his loss of form.

A tally of 89 runs from seven innings at a strike rate hovering around 130 had raised questions. On Sunday night, though, Abhishek turned the tide emphatically.

His blistering 21-ball 52 laid the platform for India's emphatic 96-run win over New Zealand.

Abhishek, however, credited Shivam Dube – one of India's unsung heroes of the campaign for the second successive edition – for playing a small but crucial role in the turnaround.

"Today (Sunday) I batted with Dube's bat, so thank you Dube," Abhishek said. "In the morning I felt like trying something different. Shubman (Gill) was not around, so I walked up to Dube and picked his bat."

Thanks for that! Abhishek wielded Dube's bat well, striking a half-century off just 18 balls. VIJAY SONEJI

"I have been dealing with this phase for the last one month after having a dream run for about a year and a half. One thing matters a lot in such situations – the company you keep. When I was not contributing with the bat, everyone in the team still believed in me," Abhishek said.

"The first thing is to trust yourself no matter how bad the phase is. Self-confidence, hard work and helping others are very important. When you help others, it eventually comes back to you."

As it turned out, borrowing a teammate's bat – a friendly gesture – ended up helping Abhishek rediscover his touch on the biggest stage.

INBRIEF

Sri Lanka appoints Kirsten as the head coach

Gary Kirsten was on Monday appointed head coach of the Sri Lanka cricket team on a two-year contract starting April 15. Kirsten will remain in the role until April 14, 2028 and will primarily oversee Sri Lanka's preparations for the 2027 ODI World Cup. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka has indefinitely postponed a six-match white-ball series against Afghanistan that was due to start in the UAE this week due to the situation in the region, an official said. The teams were scheduled to play three T20Is in Sharjah on March 13, 15 and 17, and three ODIs in Dubai on March 20, 22 and 25.

Tilottama makes it three in a row in 50m rifle 3 positions

National champion Tilottama Sen won a third consecutive final in the 50m rifle 3 positions event of the selection trials for Group A shooters in New Delhi on Monday. Kiran Ankush Jadhav triumphed in the men's finals while Udhayveer Sidhu claimed the T3 finals of the 10m air pistol event.

Carreras to miss Man City game, Mbappe not training

Real Madrid defender Alvaro Carreras will miss Wednesday's Champions League match against Manchester City, while superstar striker Kylian Mbappe did not train on Monday with his teammates as he recovers from a knee sprain.

Four-wicket win for Central Excise & Customs

Central Excise & Customs recorded a four-wicket win over DELL CC in the KSCA Group II, Division I league in Bengaluru.

The scores: DELL CC 171/6 in 20 overs lost to Central Excise & Customs 172/6 in 19.3 overs (R.R. Rohan 54, R. Samarth 43).
Railway Institute South, Hubli 194/6 in 20 overs (Madhava Dharwadkar 79, Suraj Ahuja 61) bt NR Sports Group 192/7 in 20 overs (Gowtham Sagar 77).
KPTCL Sports Organisation 168/4 in 20 overs (S. Rajashekar 75) lost to State Bank Of India 171/4 in 18.4 overs (Prakhar Chaturvedi 66, Pavan Deshpande 41 n.o.).

Niki slams century as Karnataka wins big

Rachitha Hatwar (92) and Niki Prasad (123) helped Karnataka outclass Chhattisgarh by 234 runs in the BCCI under-23 women's one-day trophy at Jaipur.

The scores: Karnataka 361/7 in 50 overs (Rachitha Hatwar 92, Niki Prasad 123, Chandasi Krishnamurthy 53) bt Chhattisgarh 127 in 35 overs (Vandita Rao 4/17).

LIVE TELECAST

Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 5 & LIV, 11.15 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Wednesday)

India has created an enviable legacy which will be tough to emulate

Tactical blunders and questionable selections meant New Zealand couldn't even pose a fight in the lop-sided title decider in Ahmedabad

Sunil Gavaskar

Crompton
Fans
World's No. 1
Ceiling Fans' Brand
1.Euromonitor International Ltd. custom research on ceiling fan brands unit sales in 2024

In the end, it was a tame final. By the time the New Zealand innings was in its first over after the PowerPlay, it was clear that the Kiwis didn't have the power to overhaul the Indian total, even if they were given another 10 overs.

Their most destructive batter, Finn Allen, had been consumed despite being given a reprieve and the insistence on having Rachin Ravindra at No. 3 came unstuck again.

After Glenn Phillips was bowled by Axar Patel, Tim Seifert had to try and salvage some pride for his team. But Ishan Kishan took a superb running catch and with that, any hopes New Zealand had of making a fist of it just evaporated.

Daryl Mitchell, who was in magnificent form in the one-day series against India, was slotted in at six supposedly to take care of a batting collapse.

The Black Caps totally ignored that with a man in form like him at the top half, the collapse was less likely to happen.

The faith in Jimmy Neesham was hard to understand; though he got three wickets in the final, he leaked runs.

Baffling call

The decision to drop Cole McConchie, who had snared two South African left-handers in his only over in the semifinal, was baffling, especially after seeing Abhishek Sharma's troubles against off-spin.

Once Sanju Samson got going, there was no stopping him. When the quicker bowlers came on, Abhishek was back in his element and cracked the fastest half-century of the T20 World Cup.

Kishan batted incredibly well throughout the tournament, and he blasted another half-century to get past 300 runs in the showpiece.

Three wickets, including that of skipper Suryakumar Yadav, did break the momentum a bit. But thanks to the power of Shivam Dube and the move to give Neesham the final over despite the experience of the semifinal against South Africa, India easily got past 250.

Host always ahead

The only way New Zealand were going to give themselves a chance was if the openers got off to the start like in the semifinal clash.

Suryakumar cleverly brought on Axar to take the pace off and Allen holed out, and that was it.

Jasprit Bumrah cleaned up the lower-order and the massive win, while delighting the Indian fans, was a bit disappointing for the final of a World Cup.

India have now created a legacy which will be incredibly hard for other teams to beat.

(Professional Management Group)

Terrific trio: Suryakumar, Hardik and Kishan recreate a signature pose with the trophy. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Howe urges Newcastle to step up against Flick's Barcelona

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Eddie Howe has challenged Newcastle to produce the performance of a lifetime as it aims to win the "biggest game" in the club's history against Barcelona.

Howe's side will make only its second appearance in the Champions League last 16 when LaLiga leader arrives on Tyneside for a highly anticipated first-leg clash.

For the first time since 2002-03, when it reached the second group phase, Newcastle is one of the 16 clubs remaining in a Champions League campaign.

But having eased past Azerbaijani side Qarabag in the play-off round, Howe knows Newcastle will have to make a significant step up in class to stun Hansi Flick's star-studded team. "We've never been in this position in the Champions League before, and it's the best competition there is, so for obvious reasons it's a massive game in our history," Howe said.

Talisman: Much will depend on Gordon if Newcastle is to get past the Spanish giant. AFP

Newcastle famously beat Barca 3-2 thanks to a Faustino Asprilla hat-trick in the club's first Champions League meeting in 1997.

The peak

That was the peak of the Magpies' brief spell as the Premier League's great entertainer.

Last season, Newcastle ended a 56-year trophy drought by beating Liverpool in the League Cup final. Now it is hoping to reach the Champions League quarterfinals for the first time.

Beating the five-time European champion would be a massive moment in Newcastle's history.

Newcastle is languishing in 12th in the Premier League and was knocked out of the FA Cup fifth round by Manchester City on Saturday.

Howe will try to assemble a fresh line-up against Barcelona, having rested Dan Burn, Joelinton and Anthony Gordon for the Manchester City clash.

"I don't think we've got the strength at the moment to make loads of changes and keep the same strength in our performance," Howe conceded.

"We need to try to find some energy from somewhere that will elevate our performance to a level that we've not seen before this season because I think that's the only way we'll get through."

Despite all their problems, Newcastle has won six Champions League games in a single campaign for the first time.

Their European success has inspired Newcastle supporters to chant: "Is this the way to Barcelona? Bayern Munich? Lazio? Roma? Geordie boys are taking over, Champions League awaits for me!"

Defeated by Barcelona in all four of their meetings since 1997 – including a 2-1 home loss in the group stage this season – Newcastle will have to defy the odds to give its fans more opportunities to serenade the heroes in Europe.

ROUND-OF-16 (FIRST LEG)

Galatasaray vs. Liverpool *(11.15 p.m. on Tuesday).*
Atalanta vs. Bayern Munich; Atletico Madrid vs. Tottenham Hotspur; Newcastle United vs. Barcelona *(all matches at 1.30 a.m. on Wednesday).*

Milan edges Inter in derby to keep title chase alive

EURO LEAGUES

Reuters
MILAN

AC Milan claimed a vital 1-0 home victory over city rival Inter Milan on Sunday with Pervis Estupinan's late first-half strike offering a glimmer of hope in the Serie A title race.

Inter is on top with 67 points with a seven-point gap over Milan.

But Milan's hard-fought win at the San Siro stadium has sparked hope for its fans as the season enters its final phase with 10 games left for each team.

Inter was short of attacking options as Marcus Thuram missed the match with flu, while captain and leading striker Lautaro Martinez remained an unused substitute as he continues to recover from a muscle injury.

Match-winner: Milan's Estupinan fires in the lone goal of the contest. AP

In the 35th minute, Estupinan put Milan ahead, timing his run onto a pass played into space before calmly finishing from close range with a powerful strike.

Milan dominated the second half as it pushed for a second goal to seal the match, while Inter struggled to find rhythm in attack.

The results: Serie A: Lecce 2 (Pierotti 22, Stulic 38-pen) bt Cremonese 1 (Bonazzoli 47); Bologna 1 (Rowe 49) lost to Verona 2 (Frese 53, Bowie 57). Fiorentina 0 drew with Parma 0; Genoa 2 (Messias 52-pen, Vitinha 80) bt Roma 1 (Ndicka 55); AC Milan 1 (Estupinan 35) bt Inter Milan 0.

LaLiga: Villarreal 2 (Buchanan 31, Mourino 41) bt Elche 1 (Silva 83); Getafe 2 (Femenia 28, Satriano 45+2) bt Real Betis 0; Sevilla 1 (Adams 13) drew with Rayo Vallecano 1 (Espino 50). Valencia 3 (Guerra 47, Comert 90, Duro 90+9-pen) bt Alaves 2 (Boye 3-pen, 71).

Bundesliga: Union Berlin 1 (Koehn 18-pen) lost to Werder Bremen 4 (Deman 31, Stage 35, Gruell 66, Covic 90+4); St. Pauli 0 drew with Eintracht Frankfurt 0.

Espionage triumphs

HYDERABAD: Trainer D. Netto's ward Espionage, ridden by Kuldeep Singh Sr., won the Attractress Plate, the main event of the opening day's races held here on Monday (Mar. 9). The winner is owned by M/s. Prakash Babu, P. Ranga Raju, Donald Anthony Netto & Tripuranenivenkata Aditya Chowdary.

1. BHUPALPALLY PLATE (1,200M): TURIYA (Antony Raj S) 1, Equine Power (Ajay K) 2, Dream To Fly (G. Naresh) 3 and Beverley (P. Ajeeth K) 4. 1/2, Head and 1. 1m, 14.10s. ₹21 (w), 13, 13 and 20 (p). SHP: 41, THP: 74, FP: 52, Q: 42, Tanala: 240.Favourite: Turiya. Owner: Mr. Shantanu Sharma. Trainer: Bharath Singh.

2. REPUBLIC PLATE (1,200M): BHAIRAVA (A. Ashad Asbar) 1, Knight Crusader (B.R. Kumar) 2, Rival (Ajay K) 3 and First Lady (Rafique SK.) 4. Short Head, 2-1/4 and 3/4. 1m, 12.46s. ₹54 (w), 23, 16 and 47 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 585, FP: 501, Q: 260, Tanala: 18, 962. Favourite: Lifes Journey. Owner: Mr. T. Rakesh Reddy. Trainer: Ananta Vatsalya.

3. ASTONISH PLATE (1,100M): STAR OF OPERA (Akshay Kumar) 1, Brilliant Lad (Yash) 2, Foxy Girl (Sonu K) 3 and Dubai Touch (Ashad Asbar) 4. 2-1/4, 3/4 and 4-1/2. 1m, 05.96s. ₹16 (w), 12, 16 and 21 (p). SHP: 33, THP: 29, FP: 32, Q: 32, Tanala: 116. Favourite: Star Of Opera. Owners: Mr. Rajendran rep. Rapar's Galloping Stars LLP, M/s. Suchit Jayraj Shah & Prabhakar Chowdary Triupuraneni. Trainer: D. Netto.

4. SURYAPET PLATE (1,400M): GENIE (Md. Ekram Alam) 1, City Cruise (Abhay Singh) 2, Muaser (H.M. Akshay) 3 and Golden Bourbon (Kuldeep Sr.) 4. 8, 3/4 and 2-1/2. 1m, 28.72s. ₹50 (w), 20, 63 and 14 (p). SHP: 116, THP: 37, FP: 1,110, Q: 666, Tanala: 32, 040. Favourite: Golden Bourbon. Owners: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

5. ZOOM ZOOM PLATE (1,100M): SUPER SPLASH (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Yali (Antony Raj) 2, Quattro (Santosh Raj) 3 and Buddy (B.R. Kumar) 4. Not run: Maggie. 3, 3-1/2 and 2-3/4. 1m, 05.82s. ₹21 (w), 10, 12 and 119 (p). SHP: 52, THP: 222, FP: 112, Q: 71, Tanala: 2,375. Favourite: Super Splash. Owner: Mr. Suresh Chintamaneni. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

6. ATTRACTRESS PLATE (1,200M): ESPIONAGE (Kuldeep Singh Sr.) 1, N R I Superpower (B.R. Kumar) 2, Vivaldo (Akshay K) 3 and Proud Mary (Rafique Sk. 4. Neck, 2 and 2-1/2. 1m, 12.00s. ₹30 (w), 17, 51 and 17 (p). SHP: 166, THP: 44, FP: 806, Q: 429, Tanala: 10, 578. Favourite: One N Only. Owners: M/s. Prakash Babu, P. Ranga Raju, Donald Anthony Netto & Tripuranenivenkata Aditya Chowdary. Trainer: D. Netto.

7. RED SATIN PLATE (1,400M): ANDRE' (Antony Raj S) 1, Term Deposit (P. Ajeeth K) 2, Kaizen (Santosh Raj) 3 and One Nation (B.R. Kumar) 4. Not run: Caraxes. 2-3/4, 4-1/2 and 2-1/2. 1m, 25.99s. ₹19 (w), 10, 11 and 104 (p). SHP: 46, THP: 257, FP: 60, Q: 18, Tanala: 2,172. Favourite: Term Deposit. Owners: Mrs. Anasuya Gupta & Mr. Abhiroop Gupta rep. A.G. Bloodstock LLP, Miss. Ameeta Mehra, Mr. Atul Singh & Mr. Shantanu Sharma. Trainer: Bharat Singh.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹22, 931 (17 tkts.), 30%: 1, 835 (91 tkts.).
Mini Jackpot: 7,135 (24 tkts.).
Treble: (i) 1,395 (10 tkts.), (ii) 506 (100 tkts.).

Cherie Chevalier primed for an encore

HYDERABAD: The four-year-old Cherie Chevalier, who won well in his last start, may score an encore in the Common Land Plate, the main event of Tuesday's (Mar. 10) races.

1 SIR BRUCE PLATE (1,400m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.30 p.m.: 1. Winning Attitude (14) Afroz K 60, 2. Take A Breath (13) Sonu K 58, 3. Lego (7) Ashad Asbar 57.5, 4. Wolf Creek (11) B.R. Kumar 57.5, 5. Assured Success (3) Kuldeep Sr. 57, 6. Cape May (12) Ajay K 56.5, 7. Quality Warrior (4) Md. Ismail 55.5, 8. Golden Inzio (9) Abhay Singh 54, 9. N R I Star (10) Antony Raj 54, 10. Peanut (5) D.S. Deora 53.5, 11. Alpine Girl (8) B. Nikhil 52, 12. Secret Option (1) P. Sai K 51.5, 13. Sadiya (2) H.M. Akshay 51 and 14. Flashing Memories (6) Md. Ekram 50.5.
1. LEGO,
2. N RI STAR,
3. SECRET OPTION

2 JANGAON PLATE (1,200m) Maiden, 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4.00: 1. Sharanga (13) Antony Raj 60. 2 Mysore Pharoah (2) Kuldeep Sr. 57.5, 3. Eminency (14) Abhay Singh 57, 4. La Quinta (9) Ajay K 56.5, 5. Mahwish (1) Afroz K 56.5, 6. Total Control (11) P. Ajeeth K 55.5, 7. Moonlite Rose (7) I. Chisty 55, 8. The Divinely (5) Rafique Sk. 55, 9. Analysis (8) Akshay K 54.5, 10. Golden Aura (4) H.M. Akshay 54, 11. Opera Queen (6) Sonu K 54, 12. Photograph (12) G. Naresh 54, 13. Vedanta (3) Surya Prakash 53.5 and 14. Noorian (10) P. Sai K 53.
1. SHARANGA, 2. TOTAL CONTROL, 3. OPERA QUEEN

3 ABERDAR PLATE (1,100m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) 4.25: 1. Blissful (12) Md. Ekram 60, 2. Cosmico (6) D.S. Deora 60, 3. Inderdhanush (8) P. Sai K 60, 4. Star Medal (14) Abhay Singh 58.5, 5. Aditya (10) Rafique Sk. 57.5, 6. N R I Skypower (13) H.M. Akshay 57.5, 7. Una Paloma Blanca (3) Surya Prakash 57.5, 8. Catch The Worm (2) B.R. Kumar 56.5, 9. Greif (4) Yash Narredu 56.5, 10. Glimmer Of Hope (9) B. Nikhil 55.5, 11. Clarity (5) Kuldeep Sr. 54, 12. Aquatone (11) Ashad Asbar 52, 13. Rate Of Interest (1) G. Naresh 51 and 14. Most Beautiful (7) Ajay K 50.5.
1. GRIEF, 2. CLARITY, 3. COSMICO

4 CROWN TREASURE PLATE (1,400m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) 4.50: 1. Bholi Punjaban (11) I. Chisty 60, 2. Northern Waves (7) Antony Raj 59.5, 3. Federer (8) H.M. Akshay 58, 4. Misty Night (12) Md. Ekram 57.5, 5. Corte Madera (2) Ajay K 56.5, 6. Emerald Touch (9) Ashad Asbar 56, 7. Perfect Light (4) B.R. Kumar 55.5, 8. Top In Class (5) P. Sai K 55, 9. My Challenge (1) G. Naresh 53.5, 10. Knight Regent (10) Akshay K 52, 11. Only The Brave (3) Rafique Sk. 52, 12. Bestie (6) Abhay Singh 51 and 13. Pride Aside (13) B. Nikhil 51.
1. NORTHERN WAVES, 2. CORTE MADERA, 3. BHOLI PUNJABAN

5 SRISAILAM PLATE (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 5.20: 1. Advait (4) Ashad Asbar 56, 2. Dardanus (13) Antony Raj 56, 3. Master Class (6) I. Chisty 56, 4. Modin (9) P. Ajeeth K 56, 5. My Way My Rules (3) Afroz K 56, 6. Toshiro (7) Akshay K 56, 7. Vinfast (1) Md. Ismail 56, 8. Zorba (2) Surya Prakash 56, 9. Belgium Waffle (11) G. Naresh 54.5, 10. Love In Paris (12) Abhay Singh 54.5, 11. Mazagran (8) Santosh Raj 54.5, 12. She's A Bomb (5) Kuldeep Sr. 54.5 and 13. Star Lit (10) H.M. Akshay 54.5.
1. TOSHIRO, 2. MASTER CLASS, 3. DARDANUS

6 COMMON LAND PLATE (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 5.45: 1. Reigning Beauty (9) Md. Ismail 61.5, 2. Sugar (14) B.R. Kumar 60, 3. Ragnarok (2) H.M. Akshay 59.5, 4. Darling's Boy (8) I. Chisty 59, 5. Cherie Chevalier (12) Yash Narredu 58.5, 6. Calista Girl (5) Sonu K 56.5, 7. Encore (11) Md. Ekram 56.5, 8. Pleasant Star (7) Akshay K 56.5, 9. Azrinaz (1) P. Sai K 55.5, 10. Timeless Vision (10) Kuldeep Sr. 55.5, 11. High Speed Dive (3) Rafique Sk. 54, 12. Walking Thunder (6) P. Ajeeth K 53.5, 13. Exclusive Black (4) Ashad Asbar 52.5 and 14. Kalki (13) Uday Kiran 50.
1. CHERIE CHEVALIER,
2. PLEASANT STAR,
3. WALKING THUNDER

7 SAROORNAGAR PLATE (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. (III), 6.10: 1. Exclusive Luck (8) Antony Raj 60, 2. Golden Unicorn (10) P. Sai K 60, 3. Red Hot Punch (7) P. Ajeeth K 60, 4. Star Cruise (1) Kuldeep Sr. 60, 5. Exponent (4) Abhay Singh 59, 6. Aashritha Pet (3) Md. Ismail 58.5, 7. Dhanadeepa (6) D.S. Deora 58.5, 8. Mirzeta (5) Surya Prakash 57, 9. Deccan Ranger (2) B. Nikhil 56.5, 10. Grey Sky (11) Md. Ekram 51.5 and 11. Niloufer The Great (9) H.M. Akshay 51.
1. EXCLUSIVE LUCK,
2. STAR CRUISE,
3. GOLDEN UNICORN
Day's best: **NORTHERN WAVES**
Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.
Mini Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3 & 4. (ii) 4, 5, 6 & 7.
Treble: (i) 2, 3 & 4, (ii) 5, 6 & 7.

THE HINDU GROUP

FAST-FORWARD IS ABOUT TO TAKE THE SPOTLIGHT.

After a year that refused to slow down, comes a night that refuses to overlook it.

Join us, as we gather to honour the ones who pushed Indian sport into a faster gear and earned their place in the light.

March 13, 2026 | Mumbai | 6:30 PM onwards

Amul Presents SPORTSTAR ACES 2026 #IndiaTriumphs

Co-presented by CASAGRAND building aspirations

In Association with SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (Deemed to be University u/s 3 of UGC Act, 1956)

Chief Guest

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya
Hon'ble Union Minister of Labour & Employment, and Youth Affairs & Sports

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Education Partner: REVA UNIVERSITY Bengaluru, India
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Telecast Partner: TIMES NOW

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites tenders for the following:

No. SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/JE-1/F-393(8)/25-26/5905-09 Date: 09.03.2026

1) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/Cir-South/EE(O)/AEE-2/JE-1/25-26/EPR-22 Dated: 10.02.2026 for Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of 11KV UG Cables of the size 1CX1000 Sq.mm to various 220/66/11kV & 66/11kV sub-stations coming under Transmission (Operations) Circle-South, KPTCL, Bengaluru conforming to Technical Specifications. F.O.R.D at Store/Site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading.

No. SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/JE-1/F-393(4)/25-26/5910-15 Date: 09.03.2026

2) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/Tr(Op)/Cir-South/EE(O)/AEE-2/JE-1/25-26/EPR-23 Dated: 26.02.2026 for Design, manufacturing testing, and supply of 66KV Class Potential Transformers (0.2 Accuracy), 31.5KA rating of ratio 66KV/√3/110V/√3-110V/√3-110V/√3 (with Marshalling Boxes and without Mounting Structures) conforming to KPTCL Technical Specifications F.O.R.D at stores/Site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading for the use at various sub-stations.

The Bids will be received through e-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E-Procurement KPTCL" or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **10.03.2026**. Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- **Superintending Engineer (Ele.), Transmission (Operations), Circle-South, KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru – 09.**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಕನೀನಿ, ಮಏದಂಕಾನಿ
ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ 3, ಬಾದಾಮಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ: ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ, ಪಿನ್ ಕೋಡ: 587201
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 08357–220057 e-mail:eemlb3bdm@gmail.com

ಸಂ.ಕನೀನಿ/ಮಏಕಾನಿ.ವಿ–3/ಡಿಬಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2025–26/899 ದಿನಾಂಕ:07–3–2026

(ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರಿಂದ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ 4701 ಎಂ&ಎಂಐ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಕ್ತ ದರ್ಜೆ/ನಿಗಮದಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾಗಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ, ಶೇಕಡಾವಾರು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

(1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 2 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ (**ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂ.3469/CALL-2 ಮತ್ತು 3470/CALL-2) (2)** ಟೆಂಡರಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ.ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ) : **ರೂ.140.15 ಮತ್ತು 125.39ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು (3)** ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ : **ರೂ.2.17 ಮತ್ತು 2.11ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು**

(4) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳ ವಿವರ :

(1) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನಲೋಡ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ 07–3–2026** ರಿಂದ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16–03–2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4–00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. (2)** ಪ್ರೀ–ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ 12–03–2026 ರಂದು ಮುಂಜಾನೆ 11–00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (3)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳಿಗೆ/ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12–03–2026** ರಂದು **ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4–30** ಗಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ **(4)** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ : 17–03–2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4–30 ಗಂಟೆಯ** ನಂತರ. **(5)** ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನಂತರ

ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿಯಮಗಳು/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸ್ಸಿಂಗ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **www.kpp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ **ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ.08357–220057** ಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರು,
ಕನೀನಿನಿ.ಮ.ಏ.ಕಾ.ನಿ.ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ.3,
ಬಾದಾಮಿ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ/ಬಾಗಲಕೊಟ/636/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ/2025–26

IN THE COURT OF THE LVIII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BENGALURU (CCH-59) MISC. CASE NO. 305/2026

[UNDER THE MENTAL HEALTHCARE ACT 2017]

BETWEEN

MR. MARK PATRICK LYNN
Son of late John Christopher Lynn,
Aged about 56 years,
Residing at C-503, Annexe,
Defence Colony South Delhi,
Delhi – 110024
Presently at 104,
Raheja Haven,12(Old – 18)
Primrose Road,
Bengaluru – 560025.

..... **PETITIONER**

AND

NIL .....**RESPONDENT**

WHEREAS the Petitioner above named has filed a Petition dated 02-03-2026 for appointment of the Petitioner as guardian of Ms. Sarah Anne Maria Lynn, aged about 53 years, daughter of Late John Christopher Lynn, residing at 104, Raheja Haven, 12 (Old – 18) Primrose Road, Bengaluru – 560025, who is not in a position to take care of herself on account of mental illness and prays that a judicial direction/Order be issued with regard to appointment of the Petitioner as the guardian of mentally ill person and manager of the property of the mentally ill person. Ms. Sarah Anne Maria Lynn who was earlier being looked after by her parents, namely Mr. John Christopher Lynn and Mrs Frances Lynn. Mr. John Christopher Lynn expired on 15.04.2021 and Mrs Frances Lynn expired on 28.09.2013 leaving Ms. Sarah Anne Maria Lynn and the Petitioner and others as their only legal heirs. After the demise of Mr. John Christopher Lynn, the Petitioner, who is none other than the brother has been looking after the affairs of Ms. Sarah Anne Maria Lynn, and hence the other brothers have no objection in appointing the Petitioner as the guardian of Ms. Sarah Anne Maria Lynn.

Be it known that no Caveat has been entered and that the said Petition is posted for hearing **on the 04/04/2026 at 11 am** and all persons claiming to have any objections may come be present before the Hon'ble Court.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this the **4th day of March, 2026.**

By order of Hon'ble Court
Assistant Registrar
City Civil Court,
Bengaluru-560001

Counsel for the Petitioner :
Vivek Anand Anthony Britto
Vir Anthony Britto
Advocate
"Daisville", 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar II Stage, Bengaluru-560038

Place: Bengaluru Date: 04.03.2026

TUMAKURU CITY CORPORATION, TUMAKURU

website: www.tumkurucity.mrc.gov.in Phone: 2278480, Fax: 2275106
e-mail: itstaff_ulb_tumkur@yahoo.com Grievance: 0816-2271200, 2272200

No:TCC/HS/CR-80/2025-26 **Date:04.03.2026**

Tender Notification

The Commissioner, Tumakuru City Corporation, Tumakuru invites tenders as per the KTPP act 1999-2000 through e-Procurement portal for Muncipal Grant Eligible Contractors with PWD Licence can participate in the Tender. for more information go to **website: www.tumakuructiy.mrc.gov.in**

Sl No	Description of work
1	A Supply of Morning breakfast for PKS in Tumakuru City Corporation.
2	Supply of Morning breakfast for Helpers, Loaders and Auto Drivers in Tumakuru City Corporation.

Contractors can download and submit the Tender through e-Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Calendar of Events and other information are as follows:

1	Date of Queries of Tenders	:	**05.03.2026 to 11.03.2026**
2	Last Date for Submission of Tenders	:	**11.03.2026 at 4.00 pm**
3	Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids)	:	**16.03.2026 at 11 pm**

Postponement of calendar of events (if any) is only e-Procurement portal and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Tumakuru City Corporation
Tumakuru

DIPR/TUM/RO-292/25-26/Oysters

BANGALORE UNIVERSITY

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No:BU/CDOE/On-Line/January-2026 **Date: 17/01/2026**

Admission Notification

for Online Education UG & PG Programmes (Courses):January- 2026 Session

These Programmes are UGC Entitled Programmes as per provision 3(B)(a) of UGC (Open and Distance Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020

U.G Programmes (3 Years Duration/06 Semesters):
(i) B.Com – Bachelor of Commerce

P.G Programmes (2 Years Duration/04 Semesters):
(i) MASTER OF ARTS in (ENGLISH)
(ii) MASTER OF COMMERCE (GENERAL)(M.Com)
(iii) MASTER OF SCIENCE (MATHEMATICS)
(iv) MA (KANNADA)

Last Date for Admissions: 31.03.2026

All Admission Registrations are through Online.

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Registrar

DIPR/CP/6109/AKAR/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ
(ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ)

ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08473 253288 E-mail: ka.yadgiri.dudc@gmail.com
ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 08473 253701 : dudc_yadgiri@yahoo.com

ಕಡತ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ಜಿನಕೋ/ಯೋಜನೆ//2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.03.2026

~:ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ:~ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯುರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾನೂನು–1999 ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಗಳು–2000 ರಂತೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಿಯಿಸಿದ (ರೆಜಿಸ್ಟ್ರೇಷನ್) ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿದಾರರಿಂದ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ kppp.karnataka.gov.inರ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

01) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.03.2026 02) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ 16.03.2026 Time:05.30 PM 03) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ 18.03.2026 Time :11.00 AM

1) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DMA/2025-26/SE7415 **ವಿವರ:** Manpower Supply (Ajsk Data Entry Operators, Rtc Operators, Spandana Kendra Dc Office Operators And Adhaar Operators) On Outsource Basis For Yadgir District. **ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 85.96 **ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 1,71,900/–

ಷರತ್ತು: ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಯೋಜನಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ ಯಾದಗಿರಿ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/581/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.&ಎ/2025–26

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through KPP portal)

BWSSB invites Item Rate TENDERS in Two Stage Tender System from registered agencies for the following works.

Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount
IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/ACE(UFW)/DCE(M)-II/TA/9435/2025-26		Date: 09.03.2026
1	Construction of 30.0 ML Capacity RCC GLR in lieu of existing 22.50 ML (5 MG) capacity Reservoir which is feeding Chamarajpet, JJR Nagar, BSK 1st Stage, Basavanagudi and other surrounding areas which is located at 2nd Main Road, N.R. Colony, near APS College, Bangalore.	Rs. 3263.06 lakhs / Rs. 32.63 lakhs

The Last date for submission of tender documents is on **30-03-2026 upto 15:00 hrs.** The tender will be opening on **01-04-2026 at 11:00 hrs.**

Sd/-
Engineer-in-Chief

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(E)/ACE(E)-II/DCE(M)-I/TA(E)/9442/2025-26		Date: 09.03.2026
2	Work of diversion of 1800mm dia Cauvery Stage IV Phase II water supply pipeline at ORR Service Road of Bellanduru village for construction of BBMP Road Culvert across ORR near RMZ Eco space coming under Haraluru Service Station of AEE SE-3 Sub-division. **Call-4. Indent No. 2777.**	Rs. 164.93 lakhs / Rs. 2,47,400/-

The Last date for submission of tender documents is on **17-03-2026 upto 12:00 hrs.** The tender will be opening on **18-03-2026 after 12:00 hrs.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (East)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/YC/6095/2025-26

More than four lakh votes received for Popular Choice awards

Amul
Presents
'SPORTSTAR ACES 2026
#IndiaTriumphs
Co-presented by CASAGRAND
In Association with SRM

Sports Bureau

The Aces Awards, *Sportstar*'s flagship annual celebration of sporting excellence, gears up for its eighth edition in 2026, honouring athletes, coaches and systems that have played a part in defining Indian sport over the past year.

Community sentiment

The Popular Choice awards, which adds a touch of community sentiment to the honour that reflects merit and achievement, has received over four lakh votes this year.

These votes have helped select the deserving winner across categories including Sportstar of the Year (male and female), National Team of the Year, Club/State Team of the Year and the Sporting Moment of the Year.

Some of the nominees

Shubman Gill, who led from the front as captain in India's captivating Test series in England, Divya Deshmukh who won the Women's World Cup chess defying all odds, the Indian women's cricket team whose World Cup triumph will inspire the next generation of girls to take up the ball and willow were some of the nominees for these awards.

Additionally, there are 19 Jury Awards, which have been deliberated on by an elite panel headed by legendary India cricketer Sunil Gavaskar.

The jury

Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra, former India hockey captain M.M. Somaya, chess great Viswanathan Anand, and Olympians Anjali Bhagwat and Aparna Popat complete the jury. There will also be a separate Chairperson's Award for Sports for Social Good, which will honour individuals or organisations that have used the power of sports as a tool for societal development.

The 2026 *Sportstar* Aces Awards is presented by Amul, co-presented by Casagrand in association with SRM Institute of Science and Technology.

SBI, Christ University, Bharat Petroleum, LIC, Sports Authority of Telangana, NTPC, Indian softball cricket foundation, Jaquar And Company Private Limited are associate partners.

Reva University is the education partner. Blue Star is the cooling partner while *Times Now* is the telecast partner.

Slick work: Burnet attempts to weave her way past the Indian defence. K.V.S. GIRI

India lets slip the advantage, splits points with Scotland

Burnet's strike in the third quarter and a stubborn defence earns the European team a draw; Italy and England post easy victories; Uruguay edges past Wales in a five-goal thriller

WWC QUALIFIERS

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

After cruising past Uruguay, India faced a far sterner challenge from Scotland in the FIH Women's World Cup (WWC) Qualifiers at the G.M.C. Balayogi Stadium on Monday. The host recovered from an early setback to take the lead, only for Scotland to fight back and earn a 2-2 draw.

Scotland capitalised on India's sluggish start, earning a penalty corner in the sixth minute after finding too much space in the midfield. Jennifer Eadie's drag-flick was deftly deflected in by Heather McEwan, handing the visitors the early advantage. Udita and Navneet Kaur tried to inject some urgency into India's play in the opening quarter, but Scotland's defence stood firm. India, meanwhile, struggled to find rhythm, and Baljeet Kaur's poor trapping resulted in a wasted penalty corner just before the break.

Pulling level

Three minutes after play resumed, India drew level through a well-worked penalty corner. After Sushila Chanu fumbled with her trapping, Navneet Kaur took possession, combined with Sushila in a quick one-two and smashed the ball goalward, with the shot taking a deflection off Eve Pearson on its way in.

With little more than a minute to go for the half-time break, India took the lead. Rutuja Pisal won a penalty corner, which Scotland failed to clear. Manisha Chauhan's drag-flick bounced off the woodwork resulting in a scramble in the circle, before Sunelita Toppo reacted the quickest to guide the ball home.

Scotland, however, pegged India back in the third quarter. McEwan dispossessed Udita and a sequence of crisp, one-touch passes carved open the Indian defence before Fiona Burnet finished calmly at the far post to restore parity.

India spent much of the quarter thereafter defending against sustained pressure from the Scottish players, even squandering three penalty corners in the final minute of the period. Navneet led India's push in the final quarter, but both defences held firm, leaving the teams to settle for a point each.

The results: Italy 3 (Federica Carta 19-pc, Lola Brea 21, Eleonora Di Paola 45) bt Austria 0.

England 3 (Lily Walker 16, Elizabeth Neal 38-pc, Grace Baldson 44-pc) bt Korea 0.

Uruguay 3 (Manuela Vilar 29-pc, Agustina Diaz 36-pc, Teresa Viana 41) bt Wales 2 (Anja Atkin 5, Rachel Goodwin 48).

India 2 (Navneet Kaur 18-pc, Sunelita Toppo 29-pc) drew with Scotland 2 (Heather McEwan 6-pc, Fiona Burnet 33).

daCunha/AB/1087

Punjab and NEUFC share the spoils

ISL

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

At the end of 90 minutes of the Indian Super League (ISL) fixture at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Monday, there was little to separate Punjab FC and NorthEast United FC (NEUFC). A 1-1 draw meant that the two teams had to settle for a point each in front of a sparse crowd.

It was after a goalless first half that the contest sprung to life.

Taking the lead

Seemingly against the run of play, NEUFC took the lead in the 60th minute when the ball ricocheted off a Punjab player and fell to Parthib Gogoi. The forward was through on goal in the blink of an eye and executed a calm finish.

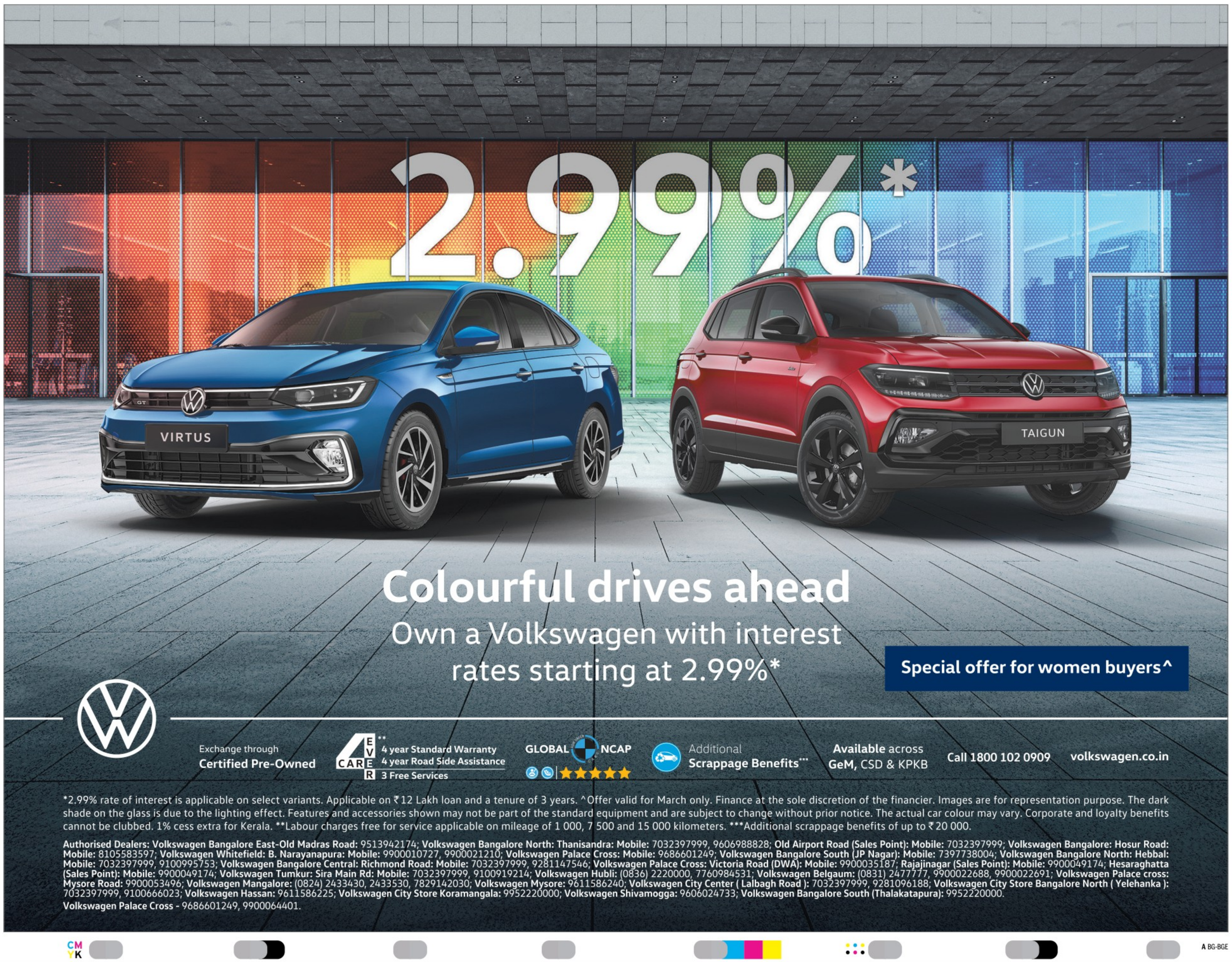
Just three minutes later, Punjab struck back. The equaliser came through Effiong Nsungusi, who backheeled a cross from winger Muhammad Suhail into the back of the net.

The latter did a lot of the hard work on the left to storm into the box, and was pinpoint with his subsequent delivery to pick out the Nigerian striker.

In the first half, Punjab enjoyed more of the ball. Towards the end of the opening period, Suhail, who came on for the injured Nikhil Prabhu in the 32nd minute, looked promising with his pacy runs from the left flank.

In the 44th minute, Suhail's spark saw him dribble past Redeem Tlang and find Daniel Ramirez inside the 18-yard box. But the Spaniard squandered a brilliant opportunity by taking one touch too many.

The result: Punjab FC 1 (Effiong Nsungusi 63) drew with NorthEast United FC 1 (Parthib Gogoi 60).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